



Inside

BRUNO BLASTS--"I AM NOT A DIRTY WRESTLER!"

AUGUST 1976

47727



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Wrestling

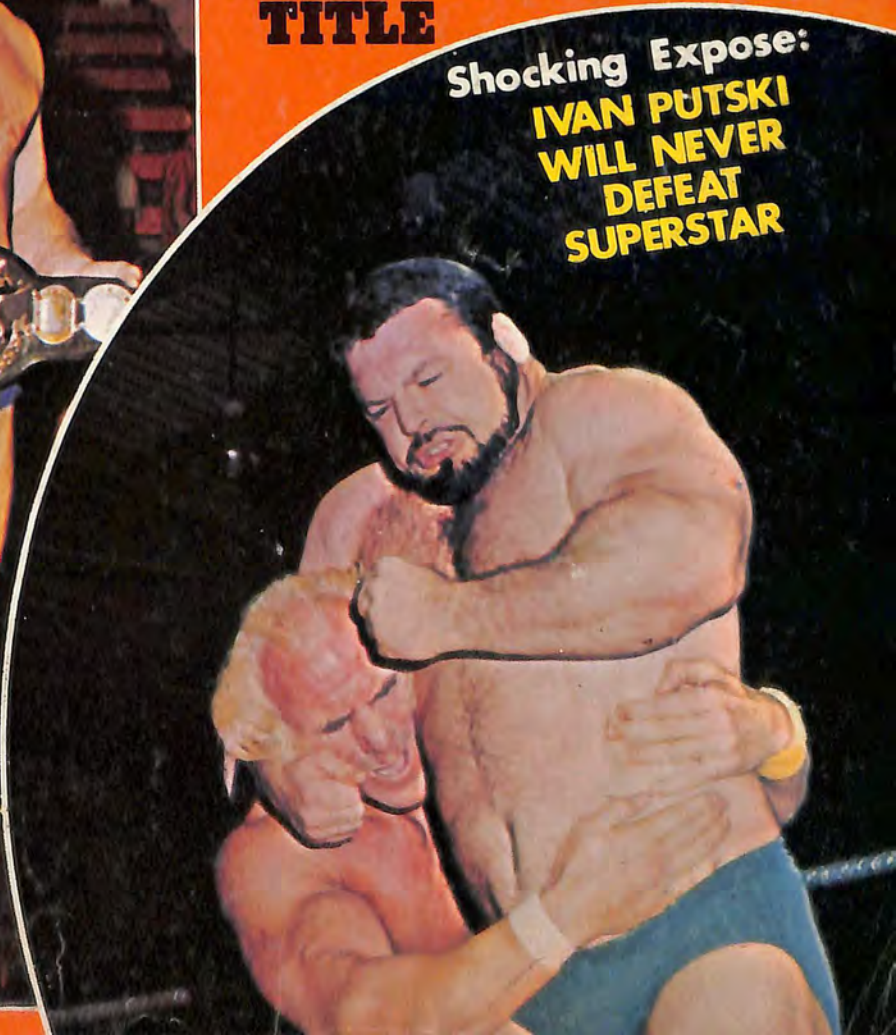
**WHY
TERRY FUNK
MUST
WRESTLE
DORY FUNK JR.**



**HOW
MIL MASCARAS
BROKE INTO
PROFESSIONAL
WRESTLING**

**Now It Can Be
Revealed: WHEN
CHIEF STRONGBOW
GOT A SHOT
AT THE WWWF
TITLE**

**Shocking Expose:
IVAN PUTSKI
WILL NEVER
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SUPERSTAR**



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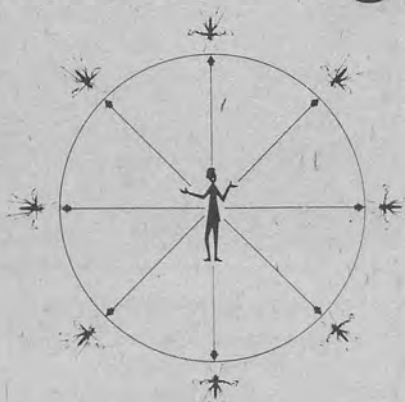
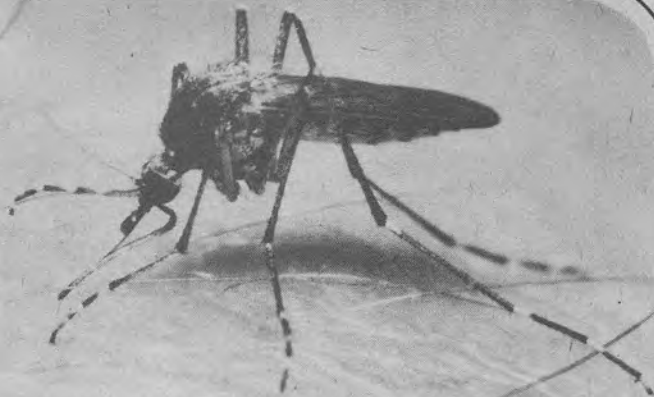
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Inside Wrestling

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King
Editor-in-Chief

WHEN I HEARD that Terry Funk had won the NWA title from Jack Brisco back in December 1975, I was very surprised. After all, I hadn't seen Terry wrestle since late 1973 when he looked somewhat less than impressive. So, with this in mind, I decided to journey to Amarillo to see if Funk had improved since winning the championship. And has he ever! He's probably the most improved wrestler I've ever seen. In addition, remember this: Terry is the youngest of the three world champions. If he continues to improve at his present rate, he will surely become the greatest champion in wrestling history. And don't let his questionable tactics mislead you--Funk is a good, exciting wrestler who always gives the fans their money's worth.

** ** **

For all of you fans who entered our "Win A Mil Mascaras Mask Contest," Mil assures me he is reading every one of your compositions and he will soon choose the winner. Incidentally, the record-breaking response we received on this contest proves something I've known for a long time: Mil Mascaras is one of the most popular wrestlers in the world today.

** ** **

Remember, if you wish to comment on any one of our stories, just drop a line to: Editor's Notebook

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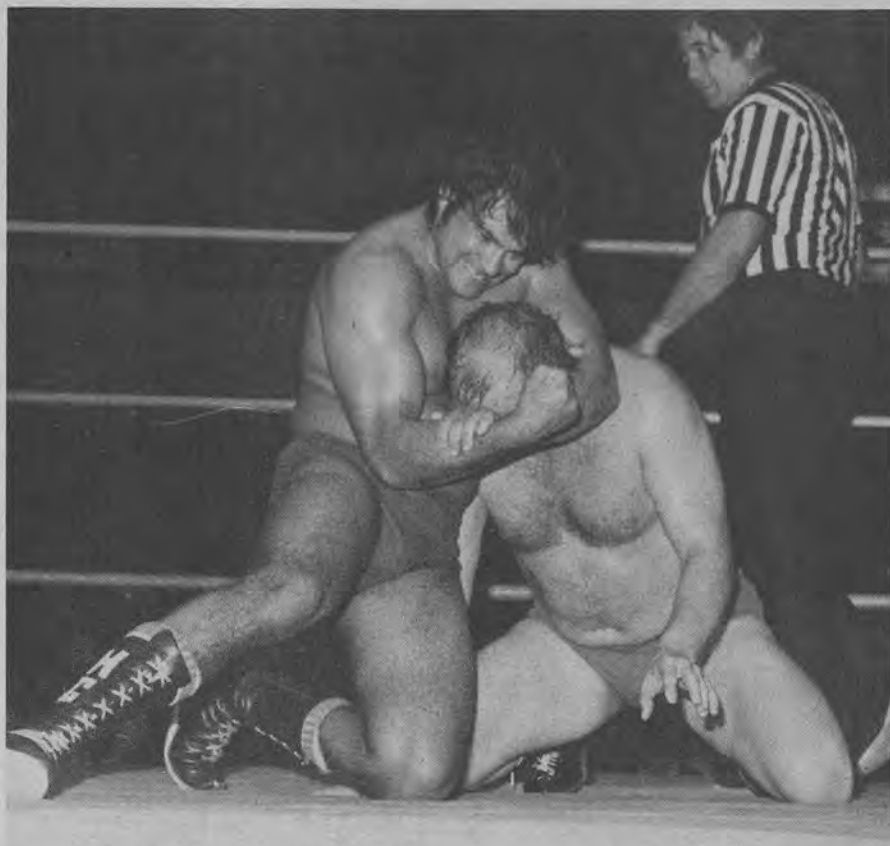
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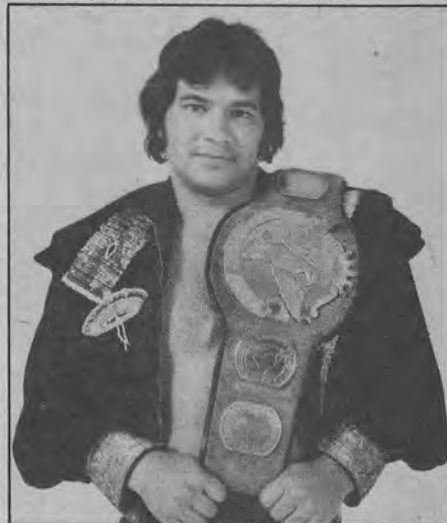
Above: Chavo Guerrero is on his way to a great upset victory over Dory Funk Jr. Below: a proud Chavo poses with the belt symbolizing the Americas title. Chavo has since lost the belt.

I MUST ADMIT to being a bit of a skeptic, especially when it comes to rookie wrestlers. I find it hard to believe a young man with little experience in the mat wars can suddenly become such a great sensation. So you can understand the doubts I had when I was assigned to visit Chavo Guerrero.

Sure, I had heard all the stories about how fantastic this young "Million Dollar Rookie" was. I didn't believe them for a minute. Chavo Guerrero might be good, I thought to myself, but no one can tell me he is the most sensational young grappler to come along in years. It all seemed too impossible.

Well, I hate to admit I am wrong, but in this case, I'll make an exception. Chavo Guerrero is as good as everyone says he is. Indeed, I have little doubt the young man may soon be a champion. He is *that* good.

Driving out to Los Angeles, I had heard several stories along the road about young Chavo. He had defeated men like Terry Funk, Dory Funk Jr., Ernie Ladd, and Rodney Piper. As I came closer to Southern California, I heard more and more people talking about the talents of Chavo Guerrero. All right, I said to myself, maybe there is more to this young man than I thought. But I still had to see him in action to be convinced.



I arrived in Los Angeles just in time to go to a wrestling show that night. My first indication of how good this rookie must be came when I discovered Chavo would battle Inferno #1 as the main event. If young Guerrero was less-than-great, he would not be in a main event!

The match against Inferno #1 proved to me what everyone else had been saying for months—

(Continued on page 52)



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'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

**by Randy
Gordon**



WHAT A MONTH it's been! I've put on almost as many miles traveling around the country as Baron Scicluna does during a match as he runs around the ring.

Was in Bruno's dressing room the night he injured his neck against Stan Hansen. He was in terrible pain, but took it like the champion he is. Any athlete can suffer an injury, and Sammartino is no exception. The great ones, in fact, are even more susceptible, as everybody is out to knock them off. And indeed, Bruno is truly one of the great ones—of this or any other decade!

Speaking of Bruno, I've received lots of letters asking who I think is the nicest, most down-to-Earth, big-name wrestler I've ever met. It's got to be a toss-up between Bruno and Mil Mascaras.

Walking through the corridors of the Nassau Coliseum recently, I somehow found myself trapped in the middle of a Sue Green-Kitty Adams argument. I'd have to compare it with trying to sidestep a full-blown tornado.

Talked with George Cannon before a recent match. I found him to be a super person. As we sat around and chatted, he admitted there's only one reporter he cannot stand the sight of. That reporter is none other than my colleague, Bill Apter.

"I can't stand the sight of that prying, meddling, camera-carrying, walking headache," yelled Cannon. "I've thrown him out of my dressing room before. Next time they'll have to carry him out!" I find it hard to understand their feud. I asked George several questions which really dug and pried, but he didn't mind at all. I guess it's just Apter!

Watched Edouard Carpentier as he loosened up before a recent match. If a person didn't know Edouard was a wrestler, he'd take him for being a gymnast. He jumps, stretches, flips and flops, rolls and twists before every match. No question he's one of the most graceful wrestlers I have ever seen.

After a match a few weeks ago, I walked with Ernie Ladd back to his dressing room. Blood covered his

(Continued on page 55)

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NAMES MAKI

JACK BRISCO has another belt around his waist. He just won the Florida title, which he calls, "A stepping stone to regaining the heavyweight crown" . . . BRUNO SAMMARTINO now an out-patient from Pittsburgh's Divine-Providence Hospital. He'll be in therapy at a medical center near his home until he can wrestle again . . . DORY FUNK JR. has put bountys on more than 10 wrestlers who are after brother Terry's NWA crown . . . BOB BACKLUND back in Florida anxious to tangle with hated foe BOB ORTON JR.

CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW



SONNY KING

finally has a suitable tag team partner, BILLY WHITE WOLF. The Chief hasn't clicked so well with a partner since he and SONNY KING were a championship duo . . . JOHN TOLOS and CHAVO GUERRERO also a new and red hot combo . . . Experts predict SUE GREEN will win the Women's title from FABULOUS MOOLAH before the end of the year . . . BOB ROOP still side-lined as a result of a figure-four leglock "courtesy" of both MIKE and EDDIE GRAHAM.



JOHN TOLOS



JACK BRISCO



GREG VALENTINE

STAN HANSEN and manager FRED BLASSIE bringing in top Washington lawyers to sue the WWF in order to get their mits on the WWF title. Hansen is the man who busted Sammartino's neck . . . RAY STEVENS in Florida trying to break up ROCK HUNTER and his army—THE ASSASSIN, PAK SONG, and THE MISSOURI MAULER . . . RIC FLAIR has given himself the title, "The World's Most Handsome Wrestler," claiming, "The world knows I deserve it!" . . . GREG VALENTINE busy in Georgia rings helping GARY HART and SPOILER rid the area of fan favorites.

ANDRE THE GIANT negotiating with television producers to star in a sequel to his award winning performance in the hit series "The Six Million Dollar Man" . . . RODDY PIPER claims *his* nickname "The Lean Mean Machine" was picked up by NICK BOCKWINKLE. However the truth of the matter is Bockwinkle was calling himself that before Roddy ever donned a pair of trunks . . . LORD AL HAYS signed with manager JIM DILLON for a series of battles in Houston, Texas . . . FRANK MONTE climbing the success ladder in Los Angeles.

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



**COWBOY
FRANKIE LAINE**

COWBOY FRANKIE LAINE claims he has the "best bulldog headlock in wrestling" . . . CRUSHER looking for a singles clash against BLACKJACK LANZA. These two have had a score to settle for some time and we feel it should come to a climax soon . . . PEDRO MORALES teamed with old friend VICTOR RIVERA on a recent Japanese tour. The pair wiped out all competition it faced . . . ANGELO POFFO managing son LANNY POFFO and tag team partner CHRIS COLT . . . DANNY LITTLE BEAR back in the U.S. after a tour of the globe—and a successful one at that. MARIO MILANO, a name familiar to mat buggs in the U.S. for years, is now a top name star in Australia . . . KITTY ADAMS teaming regularly with PAULA KAYE.

IVAN PUTSKI saying he's got CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO ready to sign a contract to grapple him . . .



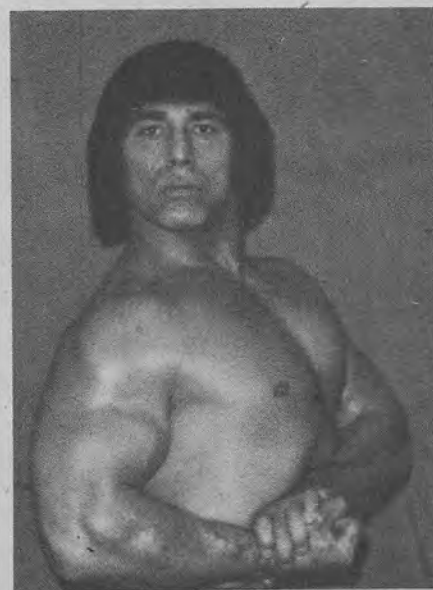
CRUSHER



IVAN PUTSKI

KARL VON SHOTZ keeping Canadian rings in a state of turmoil . . . TONY MARINO on the top of the list Von Shotz wants to destroy . . . STEVE KEIRN a sure bet to win a major title within the year . . . MIKE and EDDIE GRAHAM desperately trying to regain the Florida tag team title back from BOB ORTON JR. & SR.

LATE BULLETINS: THE MASKED EXECUTIONERS have defeated LOUIS CERDAN and TONY PARISI to capture the World Wide Wrestling Federation tag team title.



TONY MARINO

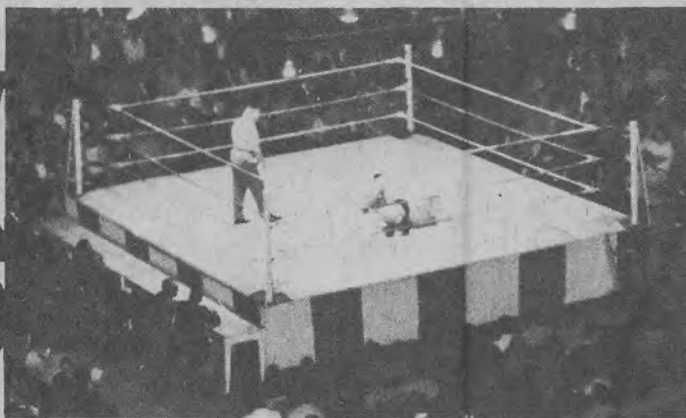
MIL MASCARAS came out the victor against MUHAMMAD ALI in a mixed boxer vs. wrestling match done by a computer.

THE GREAT MEPHISTO has split — possibly permanently — with manager BEARCAT "HABEN MUHAD" WRIGHT.

NICK BOCKWINKLE is being forced to give VERGE GAGNE an AWA title shot—with a no disqualification clause.

BABA THE GIANT nixed a chunky offer from an American promoter to clash with ANDRE THE GIANT. □

SINCERELY YOURS



Fans were full of sympathy for Pedro Morales' strange plight, revealed in its complexity by INSIDE WRESTLING.

NEW LOOK IS GREAT

The new look for INSIDE WRESTLING is just tremendous. I love all those new columns—Editor's Notebook, On the Road, Bodyslams and Pinfalls, Behind the Dressing Room Door, and Names Makin' News.

In addition, your stories were really good. You gave wrestling fans an in-depth look at what is *really* going on inside the sport of wrestling. By printing those articles, you proved you had more guts than any other wrestling magazine around.

Thank-you for a really great new publication!

WAYNE MORTON IV
Monckton, Md.

RANDY'S COLUMN IS DYNAMITE

I just finished reading "Behind the Dressing Room Door" by Randy Gordon (INSIDE WRESTLING/ July 1976) for the eighth time. It is

absolutely fantastic! It's the best thing I've ever seen in your magazine. Randy Gordon is the greatest wrestling reporter around.

I don't know how he got into all those wrestlers' dressing rooms, but I think every wrestling fan is grateful he did.

DIANE CHENG
Freeport, N.Y.

COULDN'T BE BETTER!

The new INSIDE WRESTLING is great. You have put together an excellent magazine that is better than any other in history.

Your story on Pedro Morales and his inability to leave San Francisco

was excellent. Who else but INSIDE WRESTLING would know the reasons keeping Pedro from having a title shot, I also really liked the story on "The One Man Terry Funk Cannot Defeat."

But I was most impressed with Dan Shocket's brilliant column about the refereeing of wrestling matches ("Bodyslams and Pinfalls"). He was right on target about the need for more referees in the ring, especially during Battle Royals. His is the voice of reason in an age of insanity. We need more people like him to comment on this great sport.

DEBORAH LOOMIS
Greenwich, Conn.



Terry Funk and Chavo Guerrero lock in a test of strength, neither man able to gain an advantage. Chavo's skill so impressed Terry, the NWA champion's brother, Dory Funk Jr., placed a bounty on the Mexican rookie's head. Chavo has many top veterans running for cover, none wanting to tangle with this phenomenal young mat star.

HOW COULD WE?

I thought I would write to tell you I am very disappointed. I looked over your article, "Ernie Ladd: The Complete Life Story of Wrestling's Most Controversial Athlete" (INSIDE WRESTLING/May 1976), and I really disliked it.

How could you publish a story like that? Who wants to know about Ernie Ladd's life? I think he is the lowest creature on earth! His cheating isn't the only thing; it is also his lying which offends me.

He had the nerve—right on television—to say he beat a man in the middle of the ring. Well, it just so happens I was at the match he lied about. That night he was matched against Ivan Putski, and it was Ivan who beat Ladd. Ladd purposely stayed out of the ring. What person in his right mind would do a thing like that besides Ernie Ladd?

If I ever see Ernie again, he had better watch out.

MIKE DRIGGERS
Mamaroneck, N.Y.

VERY EASILY!

I was really thrilled by your story, "Ernie Ladd: The Complete Life Story of Wrestling's Most Controversial Athlete." It was a great article about a great grappler.

Your story was very well written and highly informative. I learned a lot of inside information about Ladd I could never have found anywhere else. I now have better insight into why Ernie Ladd is like he is.

Thank you.

PAUL ALWHEYS
Park City, Utah

RAVES FOR ANDRE

I read your article, "Andre the Giant vs. The Six Million Dollar Man" (INSIDE WRESTLING/May 1976), after seeing the episodes on television. Both were really terrific.

Andre proved he is not only a talented wrestler, but a versatile actor as well.

However, I hope Andre does not allow his budding acting career to interfere with his already-great wrestling career. He is needed where he is now.

ELLEN FAIRCHILD
Downey, Calif.

ENCORE, ENCORE

After seeing Andre the Giant in "The Six Million Dollar Man," I only hope he decides to do more television shows. He was just fantastic in the role



Above: Though Ernie Ladd has deserted the gridiron for wrestling, he's never too busy to lend a helping hand to the football team of his alma mater, Grambling College. Most fans don't know of the selfless side of Ladd. Below: Andre the Giant, after his appearance on The Six-Million Dollar Man, has found himself a television star. There's no limit to this gargantuan's talents!



of Bigfoot.

Although I would never want Andre to give up his wrestling career, if he did more television, we would have an opportunity to see him more often, which would be terrific.

The fact that the shows featuring

Andre pulled in the highest ratings that week just proves wrestling fans want to see Andre in prime-time as much as possible.

WALTER BOEING
Atlanta, Ga.

(Continued on page 54)



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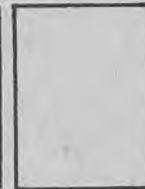
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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By **DAN
SHOCKET**

FOR YEARS, Women's wrestling has been an afterthought, an enjoyable diversion from the "serious" business of men's grappling. This has been an unfair insult to the women who have dedicated their lives to this sport. It has also prevented women's wrestling from becoming as popular as it deserves to be.

As long as women's matches are buried on the cards of regular matches they will be given little notice by the fans. Few promoters appreciate the dignity of women grapplers or the importance of the sport in the general emergence of women's athletics. What I propose is this: Women must appear on separate cards with only women wrestlers.

It's a move long overdue for this great sport. Other women's athletics have gone on to unparalleled popularity when they established a separate identity from the men's competition. Tennis is probably the best example of this. For years, women were considered unimportant when they played in the same tournaments with men. Once they established themselves in separate tournaments, women could then garner the same publicity as the men. They earned respect for their own skills once out of the men's shadows.

As in tennis, women's bouts could find sponsorship from companies specializing in women's products. There are any number of cosmetic and clothing manufacturers which could score points with the liberated women by sponsoring women's wrestling. All it takes is an enterprising young woman or man to set the necessary wheels in motion.

Once the tournaments are established women's wrestling must then do away with the championship.



Matches pitting Sue Green in combat against Fabulous Moolah (above) or Donna Christenello against Debbie Johnson (below) are always exciting contests.



This is not to take away anything from Fabulous Moolah, whose place as a wrestling immortal is assured. It's the concept of title and the advantages it gives the champion which must be done away with.

It's incredibly difficult for either a woman or man to unseat a wrestling champion. The champion has dozens of technicalities in her favor. Moolah, a genius at both wrestling and cunning, has used both to lock up the title. She is champion; the other women tend to get lost in a list of challengers.

Each tournament should choose its own champion. Have the matches once a week for a month. On the last night, the woman who has won the most bouts will be the winner of the tournament. For the next tournament, the women will start equal.

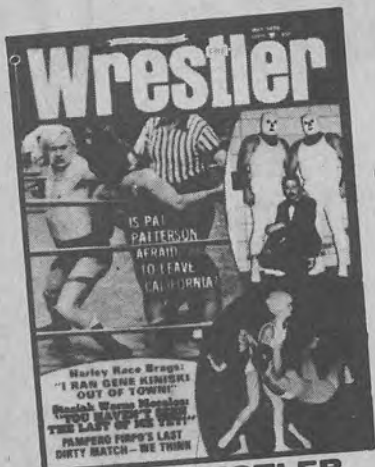
Also, women must start to encourage girls wrestling in amateur fashion. No sport can flourish without extensive amateur competition. Women are just beginning to be more than cheerleaders. This is wrestling's big chance to enjoy its greatest popularity. Women wrestling associations should invest much time and money in encouraging young girls to take up the sport.

Never has the time been better to introduce women into the martial arts. In major cities, women often get together for karate and judo classes. They are learning what men have known for thousands of years—physical combat can be enjoyable. Wrestling is one of the safest and most physical taxing ways to battle. Women should be allowed to learn this fact.

Professional women's wrestling most of all needs a wider variety of talent. No sport can survive without a

(Continued on page 60)

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TOP WRESTLER YOUR QUESTION

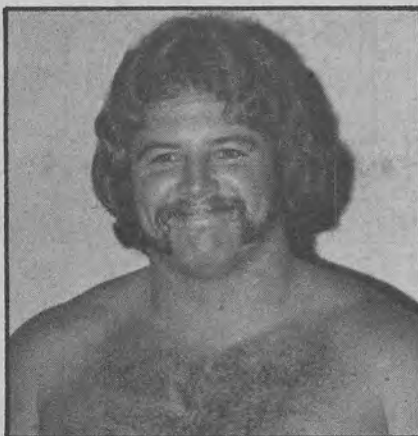
The "Question of the Month" is:

"What do wrestlers do before a match to psyche themselves up?"

**Submitted by:
John Meyers;
St. Louis,
Missouri**

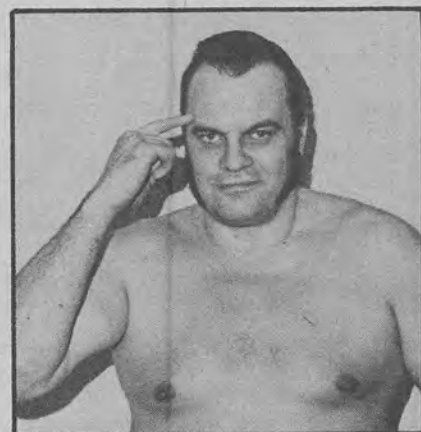
MIKE GRAHAM

"I don't have one set thing I do before a match. However, I always keep a set of weights in my dressing room. Just a few minutes before a match, I'll get my arm muscles toned up by lifting the weights a few times."



MR. WRESTLING II

"I know this may sound crazy, but I run around my dressing room like a maniac. This gets all my juices flowing. When it becomes time for the match, I'm really ready."



STAN STASIAK

"I will not answer that question. How I prepare myself before a match is the secret to my success. If I told you how I did it, every wrestler in the world would try to do it too!"



DON LEO JONATHAN

"I spend the time before matches reading. Since a wrestler's brains are often the best tool he possesses, I feel my mind should be honed and sharp for when I enter an arena."

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Well, each month in **INSIDE WRESTLING**, the sport's greatest stars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the stars, send it to: **ASK THE STARS, INSIDE WRESTLING, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571**

STARS ANSWER OF THE MONTH

ANTONIO INOKI

"The secret to my success lies in what I do to get psyched up before matches. Using a very special form of yoga taught to me by my teachers in Japan, I am able to relax my mind while I prepare my body for battle."



IVAN PUTSKI

"Before matches, I like to write letters to my friends in Poland, or read, or do anything not to think about the wrestling I am about to do. I am best when I have not thought about the battle before it happens."



JERRY LAWLER

"Before a match, I like to relax and have a good meal. I like to save all my energy for what is going to happen inside the ring. The less I do beforehand, the more energy I can use to defeat my opponents!"

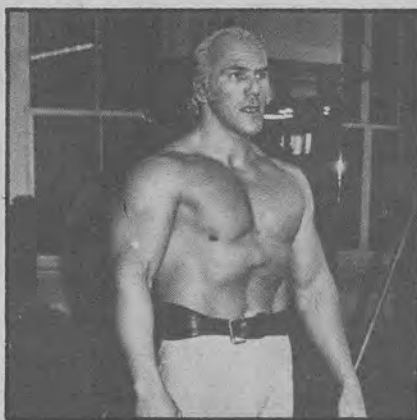


CHAVO GUERRERO

"I like to play my guitar in my dressing room before matches. The music helps me to relax, and it puts me in a proper frame of mind for the upcoming match."

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

"I stand in front of a full-length mirror for at least 45 minutes before a match. I want to make sure I am the most beautiful thing in the arena. And I want to tell you, daddy, when I go into the ring, I *am* the most wonderful sight to behold!"



VERNE GAGNE

"Usually I like to take a long nap before a match. I have to have someone come into my dressing room and wake me up in time for the match. However, I've never slept through any battles!" □



HOTSEAT

NICK BOCKWINKLE:

"I AM THE SPORT'S GREATEST CHAMPION!"

HE IS A sensational athlete who has won several titles all over the United States. Yet he is known as one of the cruelest men in wrestling. He earned his greatest fame as a tag team partner with Ray Stevens. But he has gone on to earn even greater glory as the present owner of the AWA's top single honor—the heavy-weight championship, a title he won from Verne Gagne. He is Nick Bockwinkle.

Q: Welcome to the "Hotseat," Nick.

A: Thank you, I think. You know, I've been waiting a long time to be put on the Hotseat. You've had everyone else here. I was wondering when you'd get around to me. After all, I am a world champion and all.

Q: Well, you are here now, so let's get on with it.

A: Sounds fair.

Q: Let's start with your winning the AWA title from Verne Gagne. There are some people who say you did not win the belt fairly.

“

**I deserve the AWA title.
I won it fair and square.
My story is the truth!**

”

A: That is not true. I deserved that title. I won it fair and square.

Q: But some people say Bobby Duncum helped you beat Verne.

A: All right. I've been asked this before, and I think it is about time I

set the record straight. To begin with, Bobby didn't really help me. He was trying to keep the match clean. You see, Gagne's kid tried to interfere and help his father. Bobby simply warded him off. There is not a bit of truth to the story of Duncum interfering to help me. Gagne was losing, and it was obvious to everyone at the arena. In order to protect his father's honor, the punk kid tried to rush in.

Q: That's not quite the story we've heard from Gagne.

A: Well, my story is the truth.

Q: Really?

A: I would not like to talk about it anymore.

Q: Why not?

A: Because the matter of how I won the title is really not important anymore. I am the champion. Verne Gagne is the ex-champion.





“

I think Gagne was long overdue to lose his title. I can't deny he's good, but I'm better. It was inevitable Gagne would lose his title to me.

”

Q: Would you give Gagne a rematch?
A: If I find I must waste my time with him again, I will. I am champion. I fear no one. I will not duck out of another match against Gagne.

Q: And if Verne won back his title...

A: It would be a terrible thing. Look, speaking frankly, I think Gagne was long overdue to lose his title. I can't deny he is a good athlete, but I think I am a better one. There are other men in the AWA who have given me more trouble than Verne Gagne. It was inevitable Gagne would lose his title to me. I also believe Gagne was beginning to bore the fans. How many times can the fans see a man purposely get himself disqualified to keep his championship?

Q: But isn't Gagne known as being a strictly scientific wrestler?

A: That's what you think. Anyone who's ever battled him for the title knows better. He wanted to keep that title more than anything else. And he would go to any lengths to hold onto the belt.

Q: But doesn't that also hold true for you? Don't you want to keep the



Bockwinkel has dominated foes as different as El Mongol (above) and Dory Funk Jr. (below). It's his ability to defeat any style of opponent that makes him a dangerously professional champion. Brains as much as brawn are responsible for his successful career.



belt as long as possible?

A: Of course. But I can keep it just by using my skills.

Q: With a little help from Bobby Duncum?

A: I won't dignify that question with an answer.

Q: All right. Let's go into your background a little. For many years, you wrestled only as a single, rarely taking tag team matches. Why?

A: I didn't like that kind of match then. I didn't feel I did my best wrestling in them. Also, I couldn't find a suitable partner.

Q: Then why did you start teaming with Ray Stevens?

A: We both just happened to be in the same area at the same time. Our teaming was an accident. It turned out to be a very lucky accident. The promoters and the fans needed a new team to get rid of the garbage in the area. We were the ones to do it.

Q: Garbage?

A: Yes, garbage. Teams like Crusher and Bruiser.

Q: Things seemed to have worked out very well between you and Ray Stevens.



When punishing opponents like Billy Red Cloud (above) and Dory Funk Jr. (below), Bockwinkle can't conceal the delight he feels. No matter how many bones he breaks or men he maims, Bockwinkle will never tire of the joy of torturing a helplessly trapped foe.

A: Well, after our first few matches, we discovered we wrestled well together. Suddenly we were being proclaimed as championship contenders. Then we won the titles. You have to admit, we were a damn good team. We held the title longer than anyone else ever did, or ever will. No one was better than us.

Q: Even Bruiser and Crusher?

A: They didn't even come near us in ability.

Q: Then why did you lose the title to them?

A: We didn't really. You see, there was some foul play. The commission and the promoters saw to it we would be robbed of our title. If things had been fair, Ray and I would still be wearing the belts. We gave Crusher and Bruiser the beatings of their lives. They are phony champions.

Q: Then why did you and Stevens split up? Don't you think you could



have regained your title?

A: There's no question we could have won back our belts. But our partnership was purposely destroyed. We couldn't get bookings as a



“
My partnership with Stevens was purposely destroyed. The promoters and commissioners refused to let us work together. We couldn't get bookings as a team.
”

team. The promoters and commissions refused to let us work together. So Ray took some bookings in Texas and Florida, and I stayed in the AWA since I had a singles title shot coming.

Q: That brings us to the matter of title shots. Didn't you once have a chance to win the NWA crown, and miss?

A: I wouldn't put it quite that way. I wrestled Dory Funk Jr. in Georgia. I beat him—but good! Then they refused to give me the belt!

Q: Why?

A: Because the commission and the promoters didn't like me.

Q: That is a little hard to believe.

A: Suit yourself. That's the way it happened. I won the match, and Funk kept the belt. It doesn't make sense, does it. But then again, it really doesn't matter anymore. I am now a champion. Funk isn't. And I'll be a champion a lot longer than Funk ever was. When they write the history of wrestling, I will go down as the sport's greatest champion.

Q: Thank you for your time, Nick.

A: It was a great honor—for you! □

This is surely to become one of the most controversial subjects in wrestling. Here is the full, detailed story of . . .

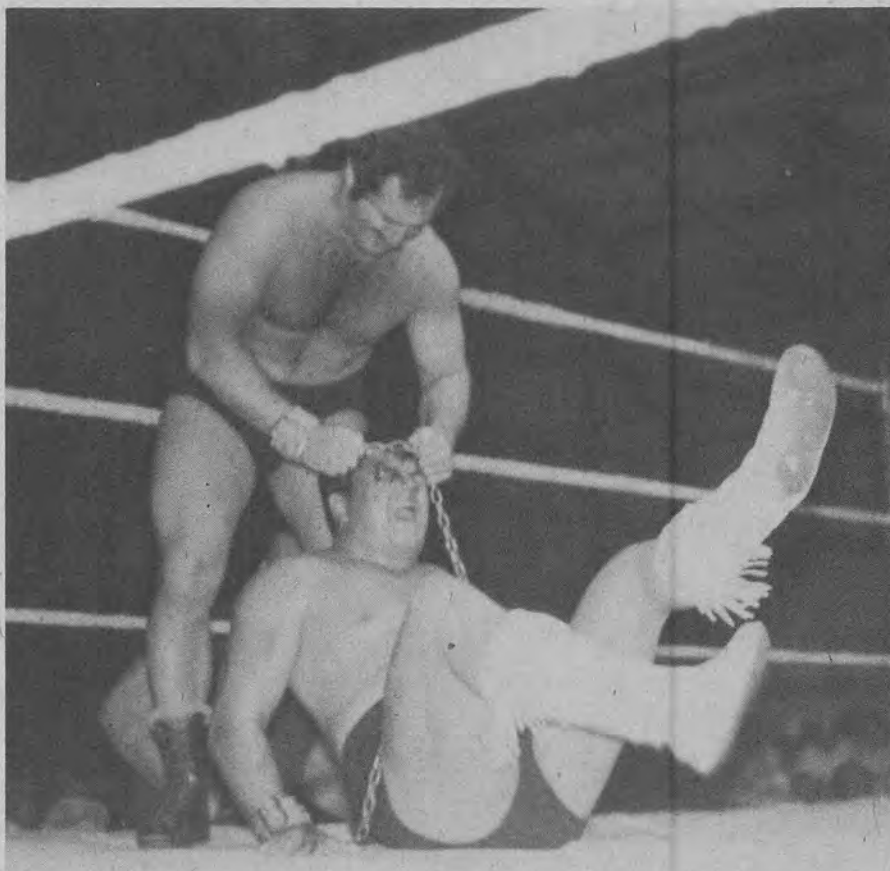
THE FOLLOWING LETTER recently was delivered to our office: "After extensive medical tests, we believe the professional wrestler, Wahoo McDaniel, is risking his life every time he enters an arena. Over the years, in his quest to please his many fans, he has absorbed far too much punishment.

"We told Mr. McDaniel he should give up his career. He has refused. We feel it our responsibility, therefore, to alert the sport about his condition. It is only fair his opponents know they could take his life in a match."

The letter was signed by four specialists in their field, respected by all who know them. It was written after much discussion between them. The doctors all agreed their consciences demanded the findings be made public after Wahoo ignored their advice.

McDaniel refused to discuss the matter at first. However, when he realized the consequences this letter could have on his career, he decided to fight back.

"First off," Wahoo declared, "those doctors weren't the only ones I consulted. I was taking my yearly physical when my physician said I should see these guys. So the four of them poked around me for a few days and came to their decision I'm finished."



Flesh is torn from the head of Wahoo McDaniel by chainwielding Boris Malenko. After years of this kind of punishment, McDaniel has a forehead tracked with scars. However, it isn't the visible scars which worry doctors and threaten the end of Wahoo's career.

**Why Top
Doctors Say: WAHOO
MUST
QUIT WRESTLING**



Even though he is obviously in no way able to continue the battle, Wahoo must be held back from returning to the fray (above). The need to win is so strong for this man that it often clouds his sense of keeping alive!

Wahoo stormed around the room, pacing furiously as he remembered the scene.

"They didn't think what it would mean for me to quit," he spat. "To them, I was some laboratory animal who hadn't lived up to expectations. It was easy for them to say I shouldn't wrestle anymore. I still had to pay their fat fees, no matter what!"

Wahoo plopped down into an over-stuffed chair. A sneer crossed his lips before he continued. "Well, there are other doctors. They may not be as famous, but they are better. They checked me out and gave me a clean bill of health. Then I went to another set of doctors, equally good, and they gave me a clean bill of health too."

We asked if we could see their reports. McDaniel hesitated a moment and then handed them over to us. We gave them a quick glance before taking them back to the office. The word "risk" appeared in both reports.

Exhaustive study of the reports reveals Wahoo did not receive a clean bill of health. However, both reports stressed most wrestlers wouldn't pass the kind of exhaustive examination Wahoo received.

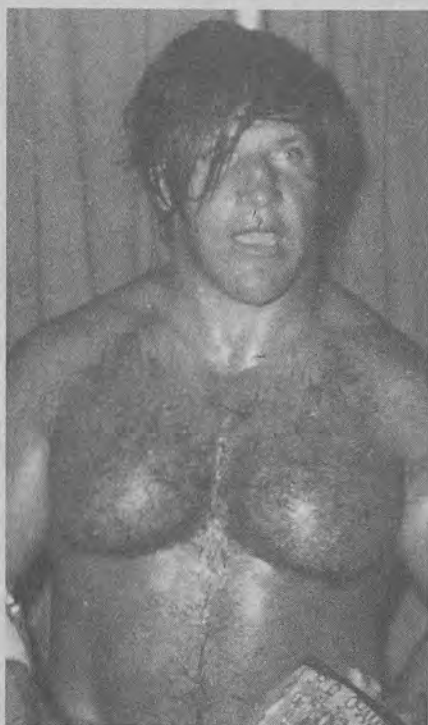
"Anyone whose body takes the abuse a wrestler's body suffers," one report declared, "will suffer extensive internal injury. It is our estimation 80 percent of all wrestlers have absorbed too much punishment during their careers. For most people, this would require at least exploratory surgery.

(Continued on page 50)

The bloodied face of Wahoo is a common sight to wrestling fans. Will they also witness his death during a wild bout?



BRUNO SAMMARTINO BLASTS--



"I AM NOT

A DIRTY WRESTLER!"

Last month, this magazine published the accusations of some of Bruno Sammartino's opponents. They claimed he was a dirty wrestler protected by the WWWF. Here are Bruno's angry answers to those men!

Sammartino's Opponents Declare:



**BRUNO IS
THE DIRTIEST
WRESTLER
IN HISTORY!**

From *INSIDE WRESTLING*/
July 1976



Bruno Sammartino a dirty wrestler? Although it might sound unbelievable, there are quite a few wrestlers who are willing to swear Bruno is the most evil grappler in the entire sport



Editor's note: The following article contains the unedited statements of Bruno Sammartino, responding to attacks by wrestlers printed in INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1976. Those wrestlers refused to allow Sammartino to respond to the photos included in that article, owned by the wrestlers themselves. Bruno is responding by describing other photos. The following statements are Sammartino's alone, not the opinions of the magazine or any of its editors.

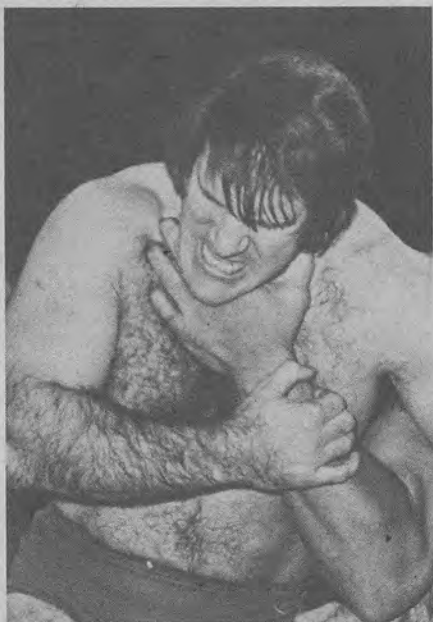
ANSWER TO BILLY GRAHAM:

"If a wrestler uses dirty tactics against me, I'll fight fire with fire. Graham complained I kicked him in the groin (the photo clearly shows my foot was headed for his thigh). Kicking

is illegal. However, as this photo shows, Graham began that match by jamming his thumb into my eye, followed by smashing his fist into my adam's apple. Either maneuver could have permanently injured me and ended my career. Graham has ended many careers with such tactics. A guy like him deserves to get booted around the ring! However, there is no excuse for kicking a man in the groin and I would never do it."

ANSWER TO ERNIE LADD:

"That huge hand trying to choke the life from me is Ernie Ladd's. Ladd accused me of choking him in a picture clearly showing my arms working on his head, not his neck. How does he intend to explain this picture? His fingers are obviously digging into my



throat, trying to squeeze my windpipe shut. It's an ugly kind of illegal move which is a Ladd specialty. The only reason he accuses me of cheating is that he can't believe anyone can beat him fairly."

ANSWER TO SPIROS ARION:

"Arion claims I attacked him when the match was over. It was over—but I was going berserk. I even pushed the referee. And I was disqualified. This was because Arion kept kicking me in the groin over and over again. I just wanted to get even with him—and I did. Arnold Skoaland and several other wrestlers had to get me off Arion. As soon as I was dragged away, he fled. I won't put up with being kicked in the groin. I'll fight fire with fire, but I will never kick someone in the groin."

ANSWER TO LOU ALBANO:

"No one should have to defend himself against Albano's accusations. His lies are exceeded only by his illegal tactics. His entire accusation is a fantasy—it never happened. He and Bugsy McGraw challenged me to a handicap match. McGraw was still in the ring when Albano attacked. I struck out wildly to survive. The photo of Albano kicking me in the groin is far more indicative of the match."

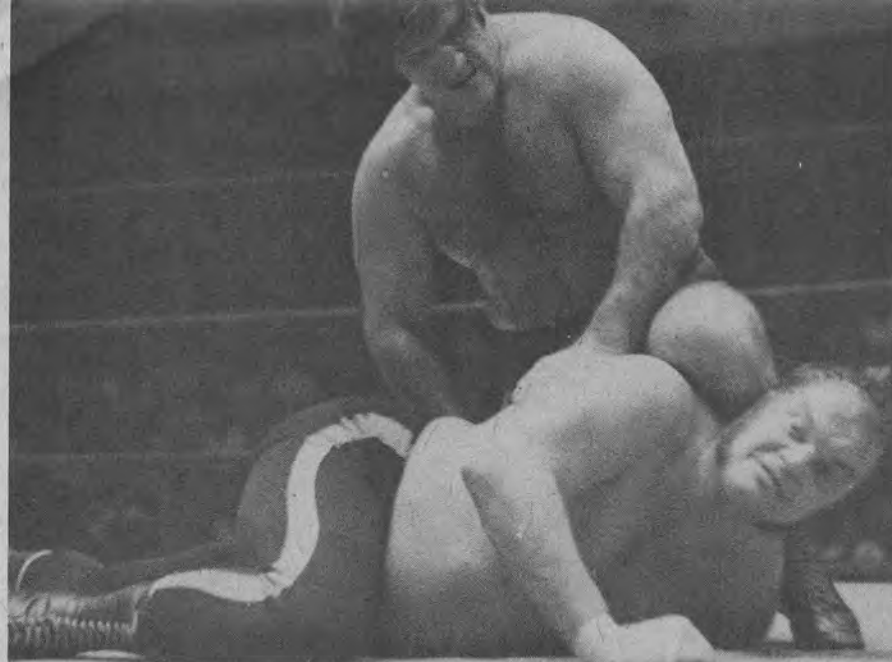
ANSWER TO STAN STASIAK:

"Here is a photo taken only seconds after the photo in which Stasiak claims I was twisting his fingers. Even the most inexperienced wrestling fan can see I've got Stasiak in a perfectly legitimate hammerlock. The only dirty play exists in Stasiak's mind. He knows he would be breaking a foe's fingers in a



Above left: Ernie Ladd's fingers are encircling Bruno's throat in one of the many ugly brawls the men have wrestled. Above: Billy Graham has his thumb poised to jab at Bruno's eye. Right: A kick by Spiros Arion to Bruno's groin doubles the champion over. Below: Bruno sees stars from a Lou Albano kick to the groin in a recent and notorious bout.





hammerlock, so he blames me for using one of his tricks. I don't need dirty tactics to beat Stasiak—or any other opponent. I'll retire before I have to rely on dirty tactics to win. I'm surprised at Stasiak. I thought he was a much better liar than this!"

ANSWER TO IVAN KOLOFF:

"Koloff accuses me of punching him. He's right—and he deserved a lot more. He'd already attacked me with a foreign object and had me bleeding profusely. The weapon was the last of many illegal tactics he's been using all match. He had come to brawl, not to wrestle. After he sliced up my forehead, I was glad to oblige him. If he wanted war, then war it would be. I don't like these kinds of matches, but I'll defend myself if I must. In this photo, even though I'm on the ropes and we're supposed to break, Koloff kicks me in the groin and chest.

ANSWER TO BOBBY DUNCUM:

"Duncum accuses me of using a weighted boot to kick people in the thigh. He says it is supposedly one of my favorite tricks. That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard! The only reason I kicked Duncum in the first place was to teach him how it felt to be kicked. As you can see in this photo, Duncum kicked me when I was trying to get back into the ring. His foot smashed into my thigh and torso—he missed when trying to kick my head! If any man deserved to be kicked, Duncum is the man. Against Bobby Duncum, the only rule is survival of the fittest!"

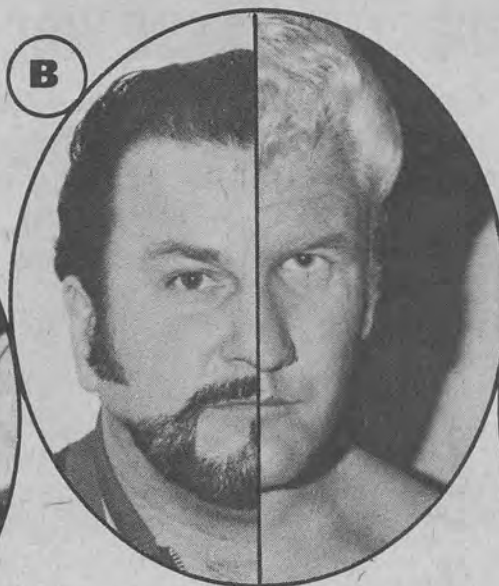
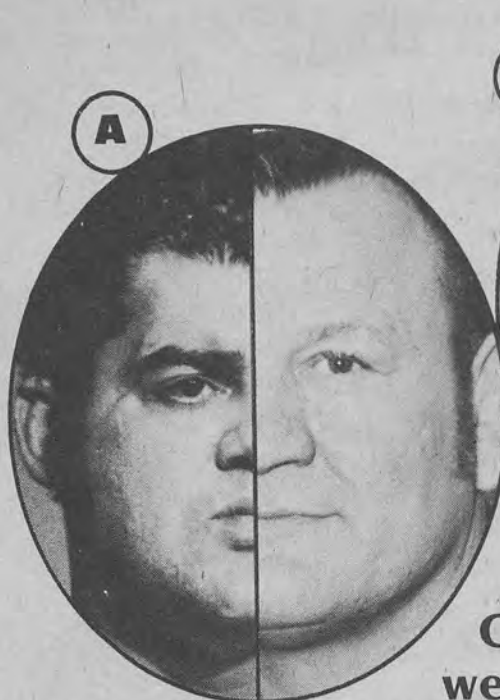
ANSWER TO BUGSY MCGRAW:

"I can believe Buggy McGraw is crazy after reading his absurd accusation. He's turning a simple test of strength into a supposedly dirty maneuver. How ridiculous can one man be? His kind of accusation shouldn't even deserve an answer. Anyone looking at the photo knows there was nothing illegal happening. However, the above photo illustrates one of Buggy's favorite illegal moves. He's grabbing onto my trunks, preparing to throw me into the ropes. The kind of whip action this produces can leave a man helpless. It's typical of a man like Buggy to make stupid claims. □

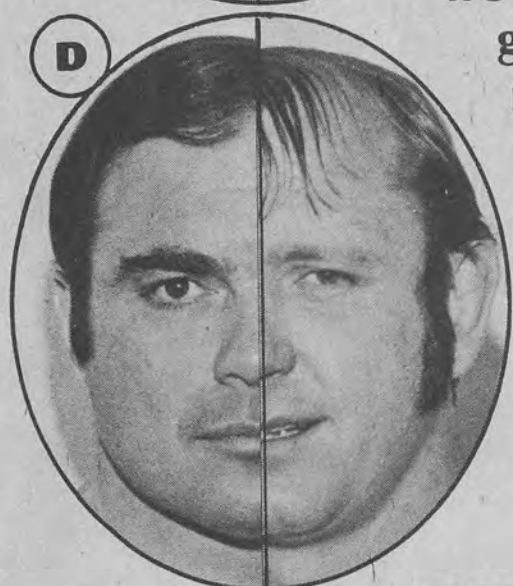


Top: Bruno says he has a perfectly legal hammerlock on Stasiak. Above left: Grabbing Sammartino's trunks, McGraw prepares to whip Bruno into the ropes. Above right: Though Bruno is on the ring ropes, Koloff keeps kicking him. Below: Bruno is prevented from getting back in the ring by a series of kicks by Bobby Duncum.

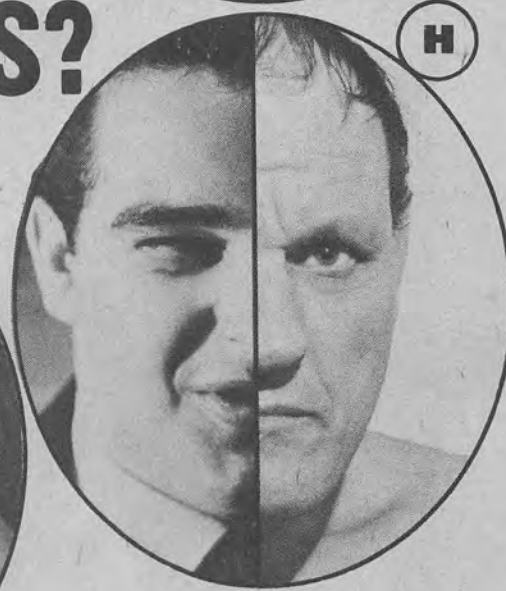
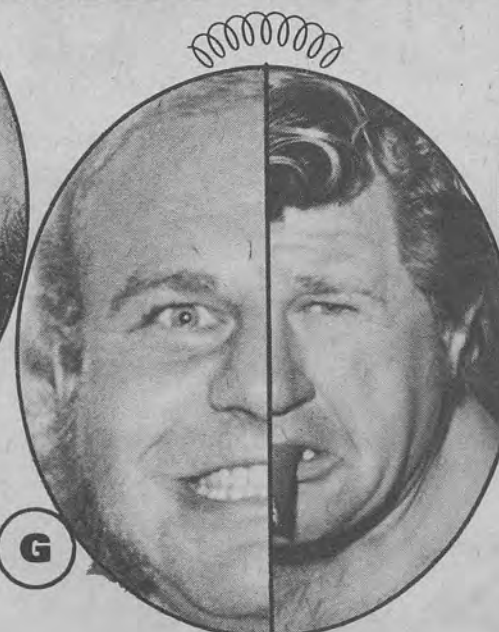
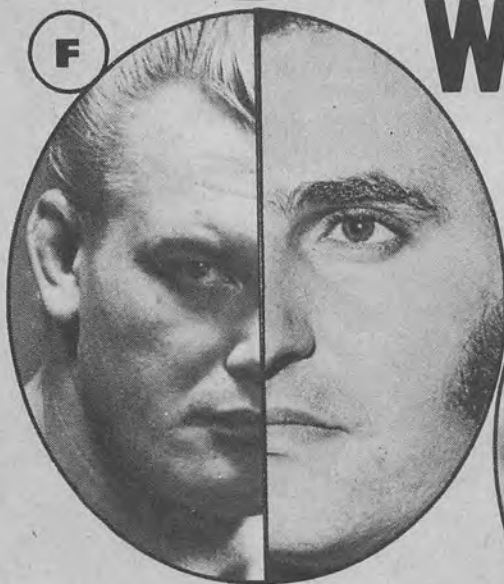




Okay contest fans. Here we go again. Let's see how good you are at recognizing parts of famous wrestlers' faces



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE WRESTLERS?



TURN PAGE FOR SOLUTION

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE WRESTLERS?

PEDRO MORALES

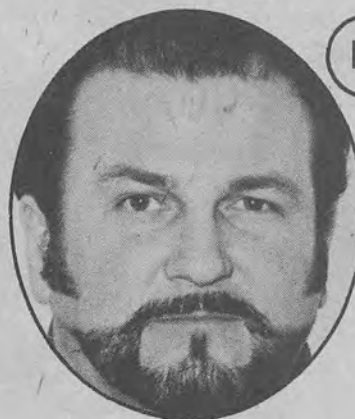
GENE KINISKI

DUTCH SAVAGE

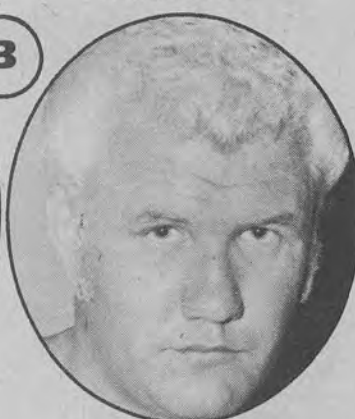
HARLEY RACE



A



B



PETER MAIVIA

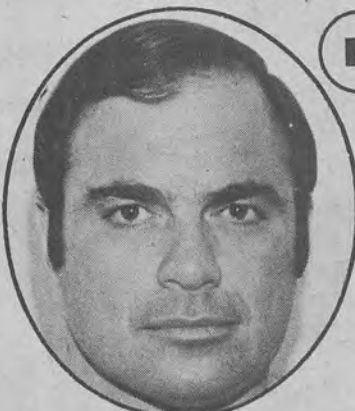
TORU TANAKA

JOHN TOLOS

DORY FUNK JR.



C



D



DALE LEWIS

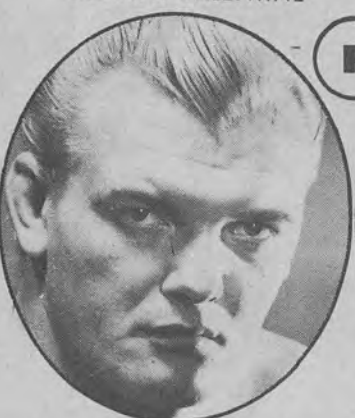
JACK BRISCO

JOHNNY VALENTINE

FRED CURRY



E



F

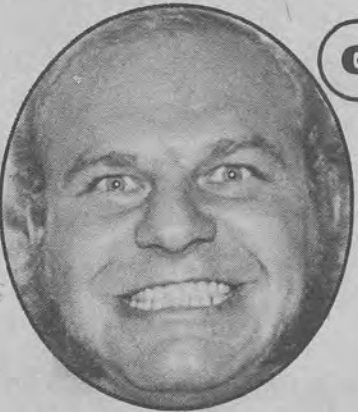


PAUL DEMARCO

BULL BULLINSKI

MARK LEWIN

KILLER KOWALSKI



G



H



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ THE STORY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ BEHIND THE HEADLINE ★



Vol. 1 No. 2

Page 2/D

HOUSTON POST
SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1973

Brisco wins world wrestling title

Oklahoma's Jack Brisco became the first man to win the world's heavyweight wrestling title in a Houston ring since 1942 when he scored a sensational three fall victory over Harley Race in Sam Houston Coliseum Friday night.

The last time the title changed hands here Bobby Managoff beat Canada's Yvon Robert in November of 1942. Before that, Bronko Nagurski

defeated Louis Thesz here June, 1939.

Race had won the title from Dory Funk, Jr., in Kansas City on May 24, ending Funk's four-year reign. Before Friday's match, Race was given a new \$10,000 gold belt by National Wrestling Alliance president Sam Muchnick, but Brisco's win took the belt from Race before he had a chance to wear it.

Brisco was born in Oklahoma and went to high school

in Blackwell, Oklahoma. He was all-state fullback, but also top wrestler in the state and when he went to Oklahoma State, he passed up football to become National Intercollegiate champion, with an undefeated record.

Brisco led during the majority of the first fall. But the wily Race survived to slam Brisco to the mat and take the opening fall in just over 12 minutes.

Brisco threw everything he

had into evening the score. He caught Race in his leg breaker, forcing the man who held the belt to submit.

When they came out for the final fall, Brisco set the pace. When Race threw Brisco into the ropes, expecting to toss him into the air for a back drop, they hit, with Brisco coming high. The move knocked Race down with Brisco on top and the fall was scored to the new

National Wrestling Alliance champion.

Ivan Putski and Jose Lothario kept their Texas tag team title with a three fall win over Black Jack Mulligan and the Missouri Mauler. Paul Boesch won over Gary Hart. Red Lyons lost to El Gran Goliath; Raul Mata and Blackie Gordman drew and Johnny Fargo was disqualified against George Scott.

THE DATE OF July 20, 1973 is a day the people of Houston, Texas, will always remember. For it was on that day Jack Brisco won his National Wrestling Alliance (NWA) title from Harley Race. Race had held the title belt for less than two months, winning the championship from Dory Funk Jr. in Kansas City on May 24, 1973.

The night Brisco won the title from Race was the first time in 24 years a belt had changed hands in the city of Houston. The previous time—in November 1942, Bobby Managoff beat Canada's Yvon Robert.

The match was one of the most exciting championship battles in NWA history. Jack led throughout most of the first fall, only to have the crafty Race perform one of his famous bodyslams on Brisco and win the opening stanza.

Jack retaliated by catching Harley in a figure-four leglock, thus evening the score. Brisco led the action for the final exciting moments of the match.

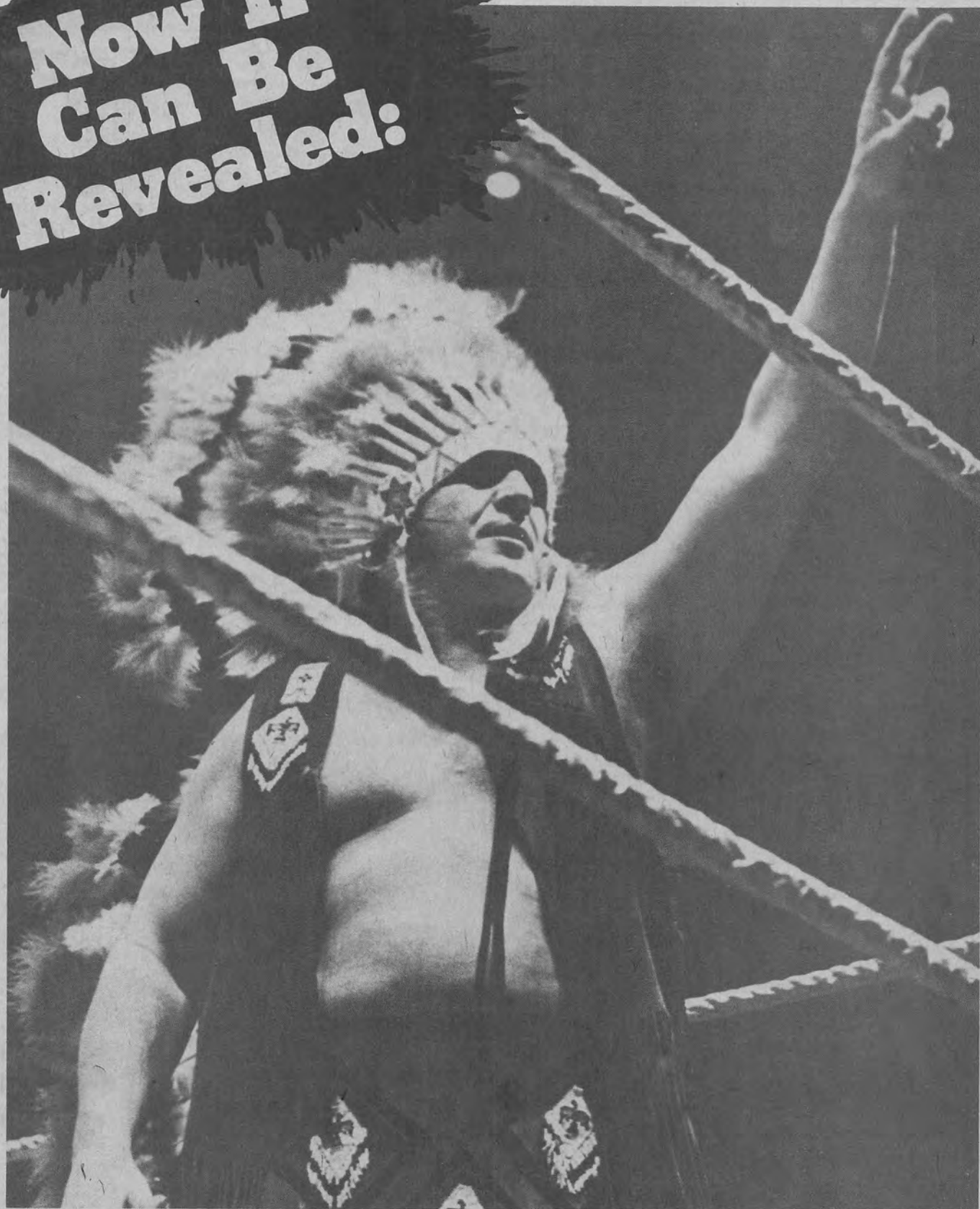
Race tried to end the match by throwing Jack against the ropes,



expecting to toss the challenger into the air for a backdrop. But things did not turn out as Harley expected. The two men hit in mid-air and crashed

to the canvas, with Jack on top of the champion. Three seconds later, Jack Brisco was the new NWA champion. □

**Now It
Can Be
Revealed:**



It has been three years since the match described in this story took place. But it has taken **INSIDE WRESTLING** all that time to find photographic proof the bout had actually taken place. So now, for the first time, we proudly present what has to be the most remarkable, shocking wrestling story in years

EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS BY TOM SIEGENTHALER

THE LAST FEW dollars Tom Siegenthaler had were spent on bus fare to the offices of **INSIDE WRESTLING**. If we turned him down, there was no place left for him to go. But he knew we couldn't turn him down.

Secreted in his briefcase were photos taken three years ago of a match most people don't even know took place. Tom was the only man with a camera there the night Chief Jay Strongbow wrestled for the WWWF title!

For the last three years, we've been trying to get photographic proof of the match. Like everyone else in wrestling, we had heard the match—against then champion Stan Stasiak—had taken place with Stasiak getting disqualified. Astonishingly, no magazine or newspaper could get photos of the most



Chief Jay Strongbow is about to go into his wardance (above) as Stan Stasiak prepares to punch him in the back. This photo proves Strongbow once had a controversial shot at the WWWF championship.

WHEN CHIEF STRONGBOW GOT A SHOT AT THE WWWF TITLE

important, heartbreaking confrontation in Strongbow's career.

We had asked Siegenthaler to photograph the match for us, but he had told us he had been laid up with a bad cold the night of the match and therefore couldn't make it. We were busy pursuing some other means of reporting the match when an even bigger story broke—Stasiak was defeated two days later and Bruno Sammartino became the new WWWF champion.

Like the rest of the wrestling community, we simply forgot about Strongbow's one title shot due to the many changes the championship underwent in less than two weeks: Pedro Morales lost the title to Stasiak who promptly lost it to

(Continued on page 56)



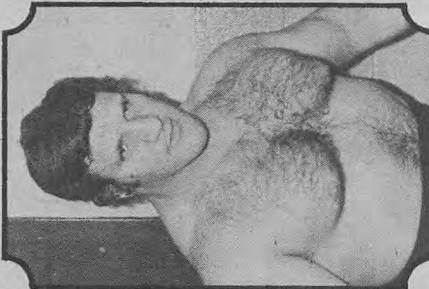
Stan Stasiak tries to choke Strongbow (above) in his efforts to keep the championship. However, Stasiak only held onto the belt for one day. The Chief was the only man Stan succeeded against.

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

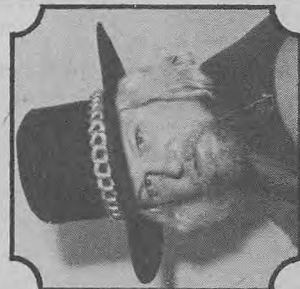
OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wide Wrestling Federation

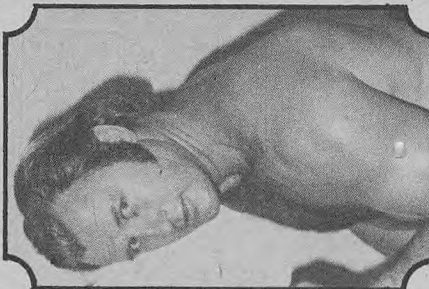


Champion: BRUNO SAMMARTINO



1—STAN HANSEN

American Wrestling Association



Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE



1—VERNE GAGNE

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion: TERRY FUNK



1—DUSTY RHODES

Women



Champion: FABULOUS MOOLAH



1—VICKI WILLIAMS

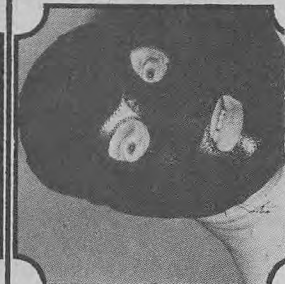
Tag Teams



1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS



1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO



2—DUSTY RHODES

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO



2—DUSTY RHODES

EXECUTIONERS



2—SUE GREEN



2—JACK BRISCO



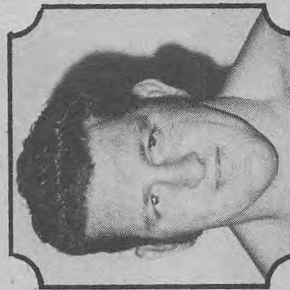
2—LARRY HENNIG



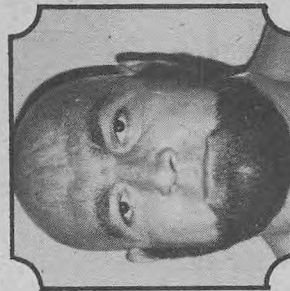
2—SUPERSTAR
BILLY GRAHAM



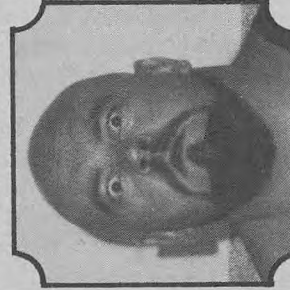
3—JOYCE GRABLE



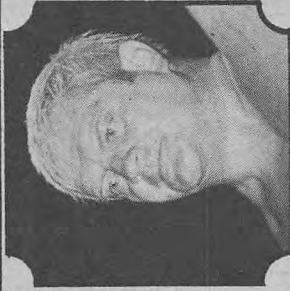
3—BILLY ROBINSON



3—JOE LEDUC



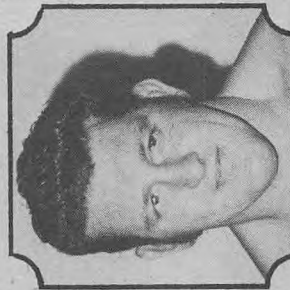
3—IVAN KOLOFF



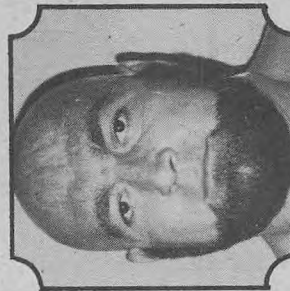
3—BRUISER &
CRUSHER



4—MIL MASCARAS



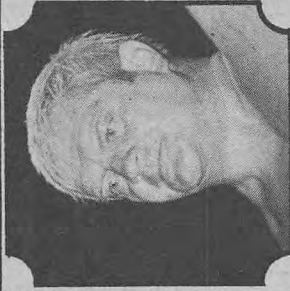
4—BOB ORTON JR.
& BOB ORTON
SR.



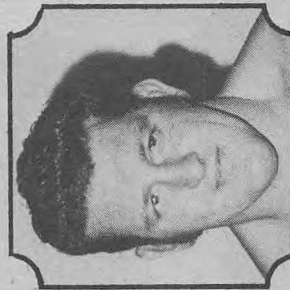
4—DONNA
CHRISTENELLO



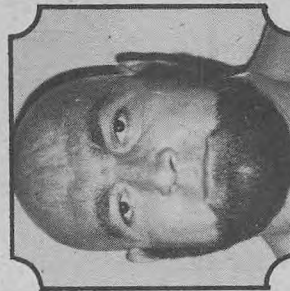
4—IVAN PUTSKI



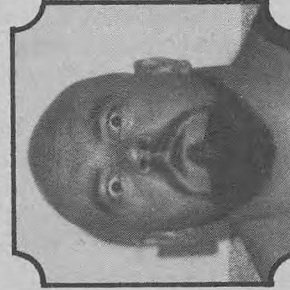
5—CHIEF JAY
STRONGBOW



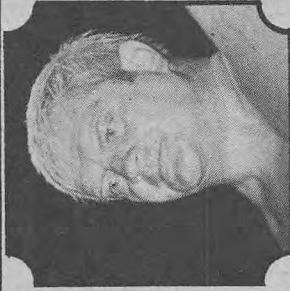
4—BLACKJACK
MULLIGAN



4—PAMPERO
FIRPO



5—BOBO BRAZIL
6—ERNIE LADD
7—SCANDOR
AKBAR
8—HAYSTACKS
CALHOUN
9—DOM DENUCCI
10—LOUIE CYR



5—THE MONGOLS
6—LOUIS CERDAN
& TONY PARISI
7—THE VALIANT
BROTHERS
8—SUPERSTAR
GRAHAM &
IVAN KOLOFF
9—LES THORNTON
& TONY
CHARLES
10—DON MURACO
& INVADER #1



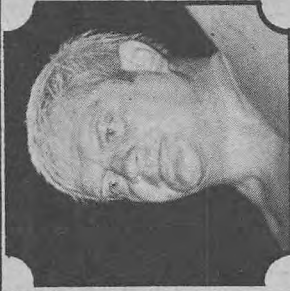
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6—KITTY ADAMS
7—SUSAN SEXTON
8—BELLE STARR
9—JEAN ANTONE
10—VIVIAN ST.
JOHN



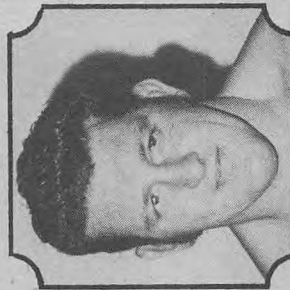
5—PAUL JONES
6—FRITZ VON
ERICH
7—DORY FUNK JR.
8—JERRY LAWLER
9—MARK LEWIN
10—CHAVO
GUERRERO



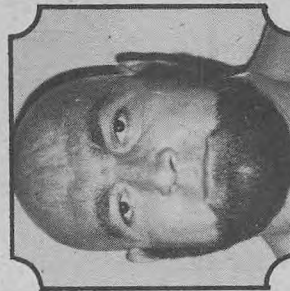
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9—PEDRO
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10—PAUL JONES



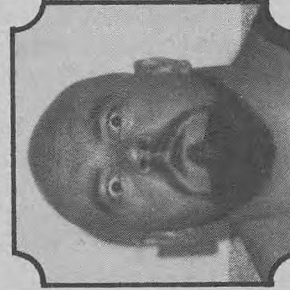
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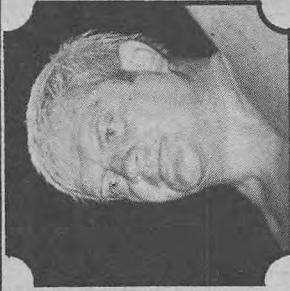
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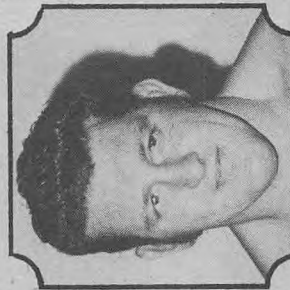
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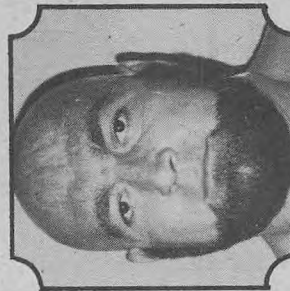
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MORALES
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PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

Shocking Expose:

IVAN PUTSKI WILL NEVER DEFEAT SUPERSTAR GRAHAM!

BY DAN SHOCKET

YOU'RE IVAN PUTSKI. You're a Polish immigrant. You're a professional wrestler. A lot of responsibilities accompany these facts. You know that. Yet can't live up to those responsibilities.

Ivan Putski is a sad young man. He hears the fans' disappointment reverberating in his brain like a church bell gone berserk. His failure accompanies him everywhere; even his dreams are haunted by it. And the face in those dreams belongs to "Superstar" Billy Graham.

Putski now goes into matches with Graham like a condemned man keeping his appointment with hell. He knows what will happen, though he'll do his best not to make it happen. For years, his best hasn't been good enough. He can never know if his best will ever be good enough.

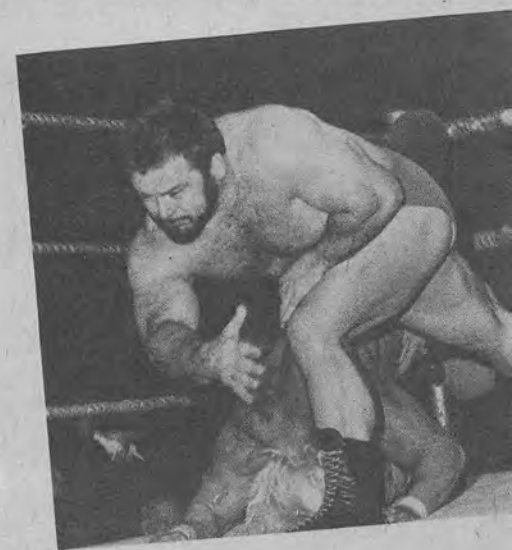
Crazy. Insane. Wild. Savage. Choose a word or make up your own; that's what happens when Putski gets his hands on Graham. Maybe there's some electric force around Graham which Putski can't overcome. That's as

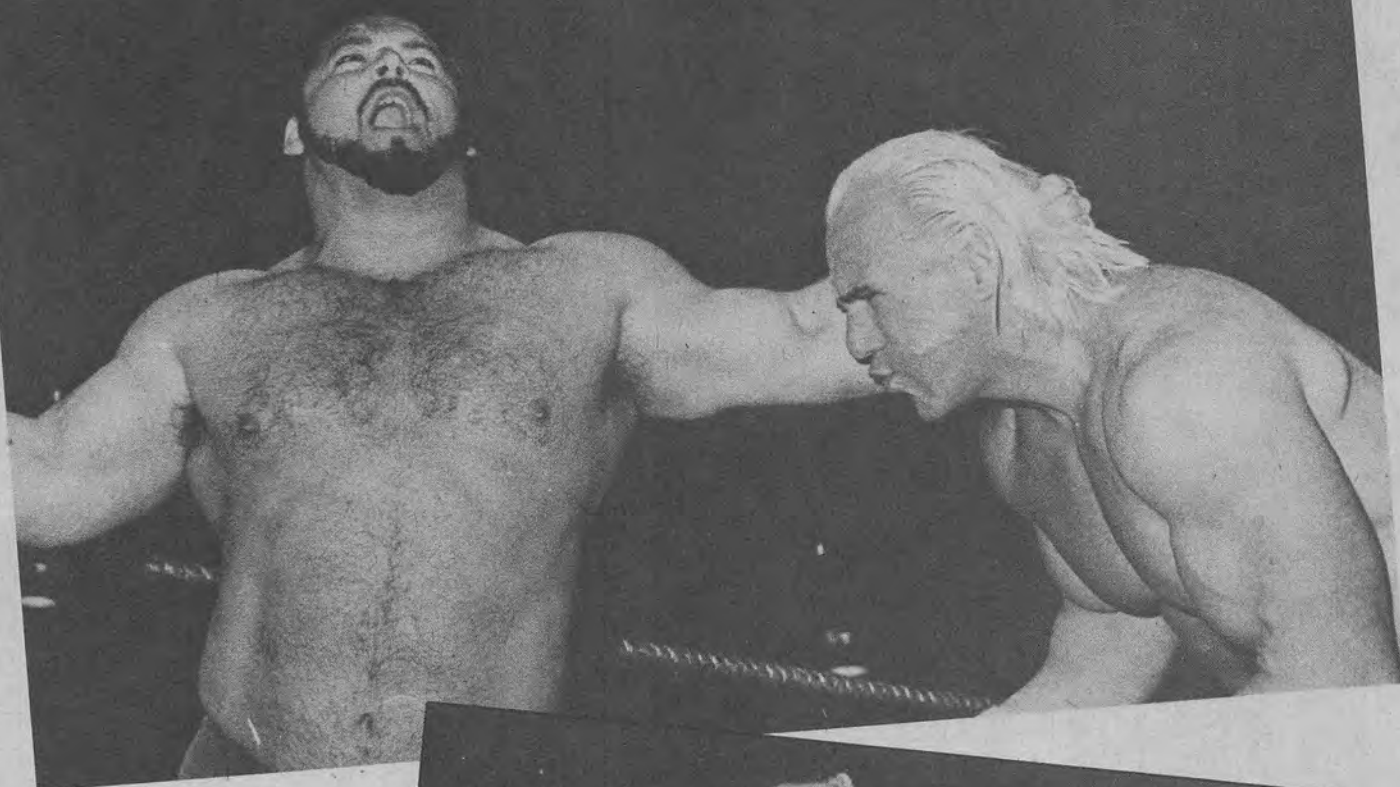
good an explanation as any—better than most.

Of course, hatred has a lot to do with it. Putski has earned the right to hate Graham. For years, the unscrupulous Graham has confounded and battered the Polish mat star into uncontrollable rags. Like clockwork, and just as unstoppable, Putski either gets himself disqualified or makes the mistake—the big mistake—which leads to defeat. And heartbreak. And the broken promise never to go crazy against Graham again.

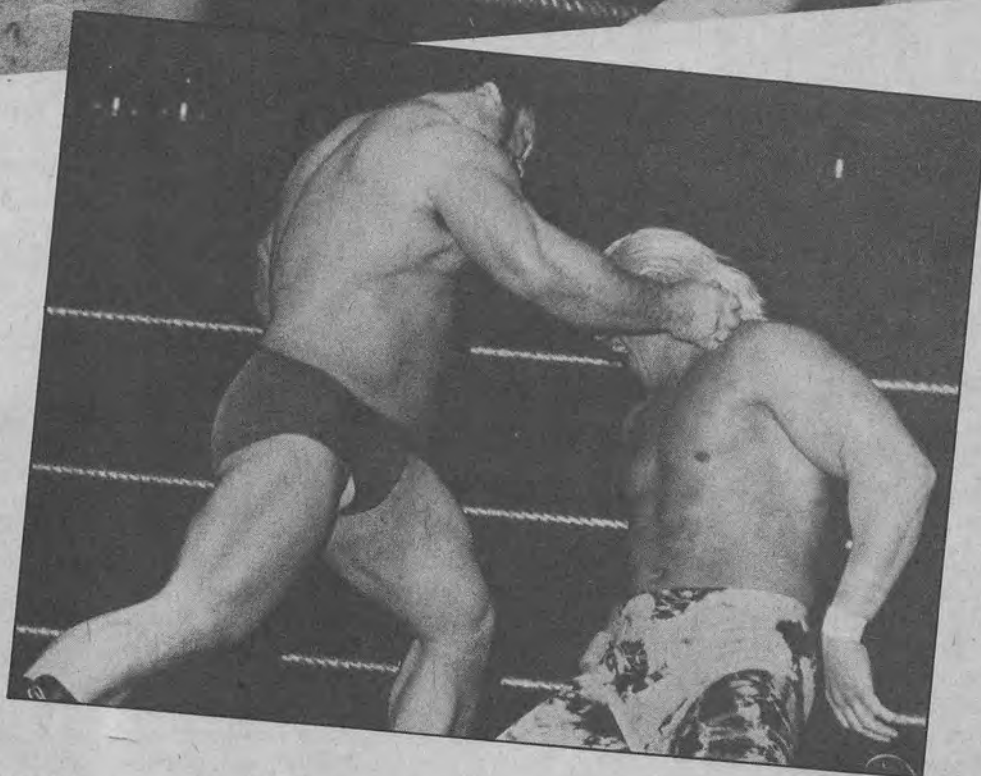


Ivan Putski (above) is a proud Polish wrestler who feels he has a certain obligation to the fans. Although he tries to beat Superstar Graham (below), he just couldn't do it. Will he ever succeed in defeating Billy?





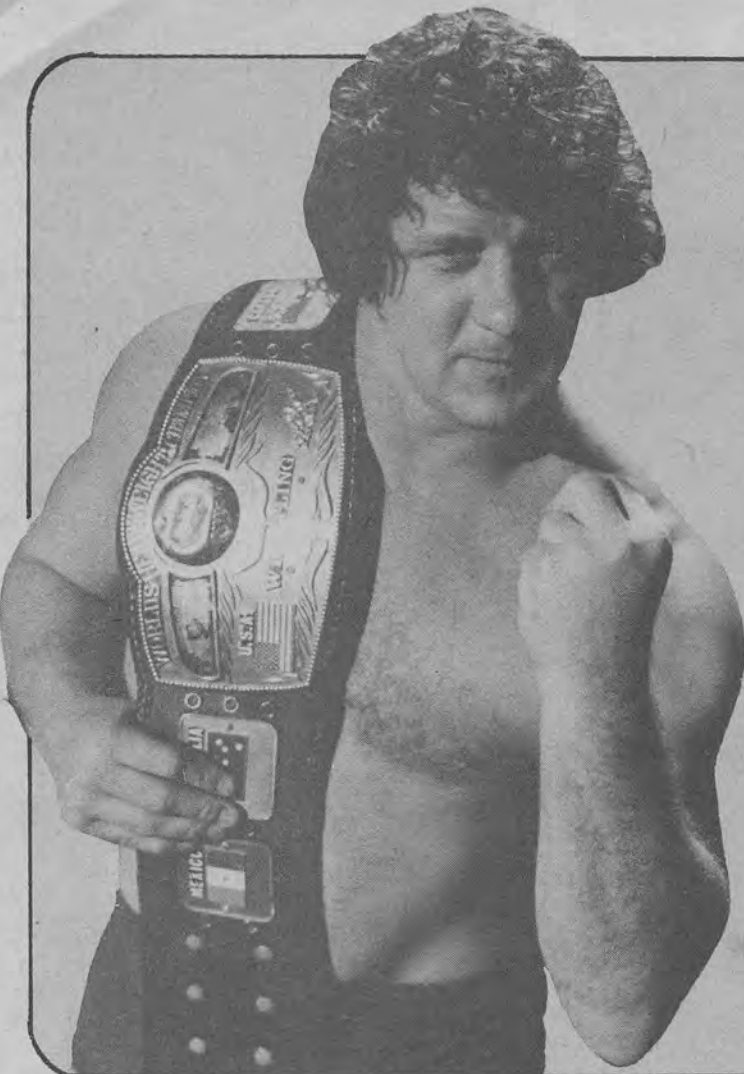
Ivan Putski prepares to show Superstar the effects of "Polish Power" as he gives Billy a punch to the face (above). Then Ivan brings Billy to his knees (below) in his quest to defeat Graham. But no matter what he did, Ivan could not beat his opponent. What is causing this very grave inability to beat Graham? No one seems to be sure.



It's become a ritual as horrible as it is fascinating. Graham and Putski get within the ropes. Ivan has promised himself, begged himself, to keep his temper in check. The fan who forked over his hard-earned money is counting on him. Every Pole who ever winced at a sleazy ethnic joke is counting on him. They want to see Graham beaten, see the cocky smile that greets them at every turn wiped off his face. The fans know that smile. It belongs to rotten foremen and bank

(Continued on page 58)

Billy Graham represents everything Ivan Putski hates and must destroy. Yet, Graham possesses a strange power which Putski seems destined never to destroy



WHY THE FUNK WREST DORY FUNK

TERRY FUNK	
Strength & Power	8.5
Speed	9.0
Repertoire	8.5
Finishing Maneuvers	10.0
Ability to Absorb Punishment	9.5
Stamina	9.5
Courage	8.5
Intelligence	9.0
Poise	8.5
Experience	9.5
RATING	90.5

The Funks have always been professional wrestlers above all else. Will their love of the sport lead to the brutal destruction of their family?

IT'S A MATCH most people say will never happen; but everyone knows it must happen. Dory Funk Jr. doesn't want to wrestle his brother Terry for the latter's NWA title. Yet an ambitious man like Dory cannot stand still while *any* man, including his brother, remains the champion.

Publicly, both brothers deny any match between them will ever occur. Publicly, their friends agree. However, off the record, those closest to Dory say the match will take place within the year, probably just before Christmas. That will be the longest Dory can tolerate existing without a shot at the title.

There is no way to underestimate the driving ambition of Dory Funk Jr. He needs to be the best like other men need air. He'll shrivel and

die without at least the prospect of being champion. His skills will rust without the promise of a title challenge. Terry Funk's championship could literally destroy his brother's career.

That's why friends say the match must take place. Friends also speculate it will be an ugly encounter. No one knowing the brothers will be present. It would be too painful a thing to watch. It's a match from which the family might never recover.

Terry will be hurt the most by the confrontation. He never even considered a title shot when Dory was champion. On becoming champion, Terry expected the same loyalty from his brother. That Dory's ambition is much greater than his own will be of no consequence to



Terry Funk proved he was wily and cunning when he won the NWA title (above) from Jack Brisco.

the younger Funk; he expects Dory to do unto him what he did for Dory. Terry, his quick temper past the breaking point, will be out for blood. He'll be out to finish Dory's title hopes for as long as he holds the title.

ERRY MUST TLE NK JR.



DORY FUNK JR.

Strength & Power	8.5
Speed	9.5
Repertoire	9.0
Finishing Maneuvers	10.0
Ability to Absorb Punishment	9.5
Stamina	9.5
Courage	9.0
Intelligence	9.5
Poise	9.0
Experience	10.0
RATING	93.5

Dory will have made peace with himself the moment he asks for the title shot. He'll expect no mercy from his brother and give none himself. By requesting the match, he'll have made the decision the title means more to him than his family. It will have been the toughest decision in his life, but one he could not avoid.

Predicting the outcome of the match is almost impossible. No one knows exactly what will happen when one brother has the other writhing in pain. One of them may discover in the middle of the match love of family is indeed more important than lust for a title. Either man, overwhelmed by the battle's consequences, could surrender. It's unlikely, but don't be shocked if it occurs.

However, if brotherly love is totally ignored in this match, one can assume a number of things will happen. To aid this analysis, one can look to the revolutionary *Stat-O-Chart* introduced in *WRESTLING ANNUAL #16* (now on sale). Seeing the brothers' comparative ratings

Dory Funk Jr. lost his title to Harley Race in 1973 (right). Will the desire to win back the belt cause Dory to forget about family ties and wrestle his brother for the NWA belt? It now seems possible Dory's craving of the title will become all-consuming, thus making Dory Jr. an outcast in his own family.



should give one some idea of how the match will go and who will emerge victor.

The two brothers rate very closely. Dory is rated one-half point better than his brother on some

things; in no category does Terry exceed his brother. According to the chart, Dory should win by a very close margin.

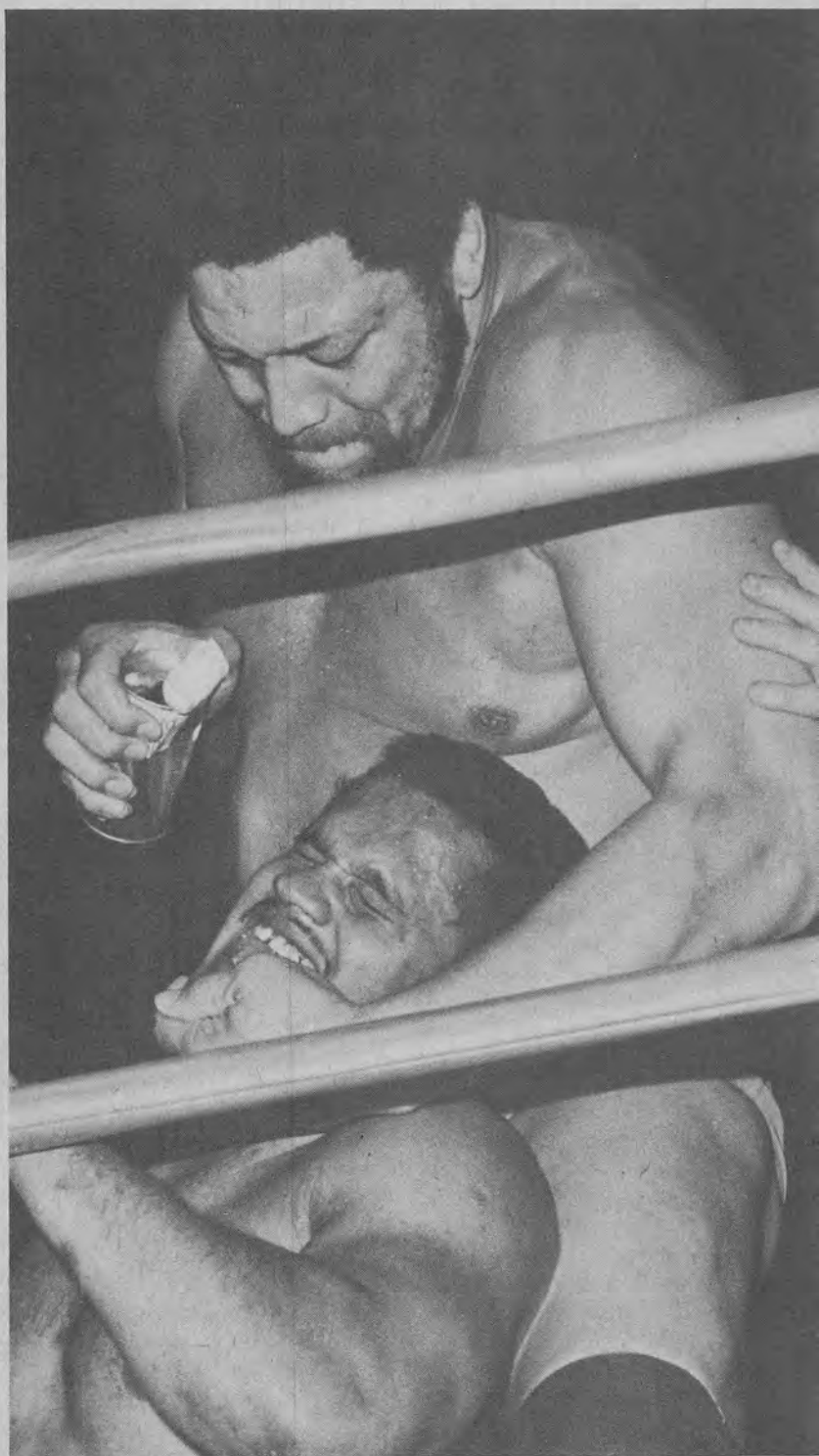
However, a championship match
(Continued on page 62)

INSIDE WRESTLING

2

CAPSULE PROFILE

THE SELF-PROCLAIMED "King of Wrestling" . . . A football superstar with San Diego Chargers and Kansas City Chiefs . . . At 6-9, 324 pounds, one of the biggest men in wrestling . . . Surprisingly agile for man his size ("That's why they call me the Big Cat.") . . . Has been known to become a fan favorite on occasion . . . Not trustworthy—has turned on many tag team partners ("It was they who turned on me.") . . . An extremely arrogant man . . . Once wrestled an entire match with lighted cigar in mouth . . . Received first world title shot while only a rookie ("It was against Lou Thesz. I beat him but never got the belt.") . . . Has won numerous regional titles and honors . . . Feuds against Bobo Brazil and Andre the Giant still raging ("I could beat them both in one night!") . . . Always enters ring with right thumb heavily taped ("It's a chronic injury.") . . . Thumb often finds itself in throat of opponent ("Not true. I'd never hurt my opponents like that.") . . . In spite of questionable tactics and maneuvers, a truly superb wrestler and athlete. □



Ernie Ladd thinks nothing of using a crumpled can as a weapon against Victor Rivera. Tactics like this have caused many fans to despise Ladd while others have an awed admiration for this fearsome grappler. The fans don't interest Ernie—all he cares about is winning.

SPECIAL NEW CONTEST

HOW YOU CAN BECOME WRESTLING'S FAN OF THE MONTH

Wrestling fans are the most loyal and dedicated fans in the world. And the time has come for US to honor YOU! It's the most exciting contest ever!

WRESTLING FANS ARE among the most faithful and knowledgeable of all sports buffs. **INSIDE WRESTLING** believes it's about time the fans received their just due. So from now on, a regular feature of this magazine will be "Wrestling Fan of the Month!"

If you think you deserve this honor, simply send us a photo of yourself and a 100-word essay telling why you're the best fan. This can take any form from straight narrative to a poem. Photos cannot be returned.

The entries will be judged by our staff and a different wrestling star each month. The grappler will also tell why he voted the way he did, which may be the most revealing article about a wrestler you'll ever read.

Remember, the contest is called "Wrestling Fan of the Month," not "A Wrestler's Fan of the Month." This contest is intended to honor a sport, not a particular participant.

So while we admire those who work long and selflessly on their favorite wrestler's fan magazine, that's not a qualification in this contest. Fan club workers are rightfully honored elsewhere.

Without the fan, wrestling would wither and die. Because of the fans, wrestling has become the most popular sport in the world. It's about time the fans receive the recognition they deserve.

As soon as possible, send your photos and essays to:

TOP FAN CONTEST
c/o **INSIDE WRESTLING**
Box 58
Rockville Centre, N.Y.
11571

GOOD LUCK!



"HOW PROFES WREST

BY MIL MASCARAS

I DIDN'T REALLY break into professional wrestling, I just sort of happened upon it by accident. However, by the time I made my professional debut as a wrestler, I was already known throughout my native land as a world-renown professional grappler.

It may sound odd, but this is what really happened. When I was a student at the University of Mexico, I pursued three major interests—philosophy, wrestling, and acting. Upon graduation, I had to make a choice of which of the three careers I wanted to follow. Believe me, it was not an easy choice to make!

During my last year in school, I enrolled in a special acting seminar. Also in the seminar was a professional wrestler. When I wasn't studying philosophy or acting, I was on the University's wrestling squad. My instructor was Euzine Ermine, a great Turkish wrestler. He had been a coach of the Turkish Olympic team and had won numerous gold medals.

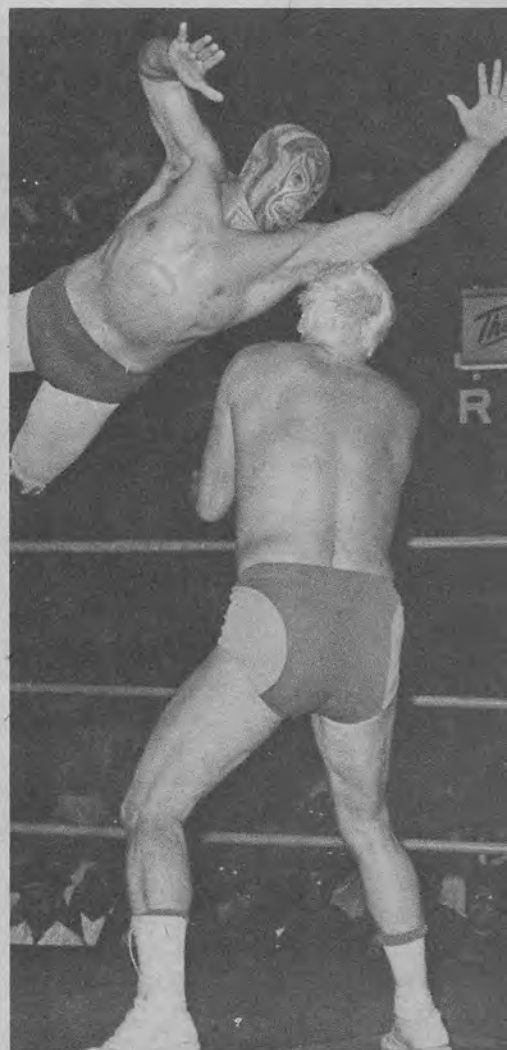
Euzine wanted me to begin training for the 1964 Olympics to be held in Japan. I was naturally quite interested. However, at the same time, my classmate in the acting seminar



Victims of the famous Mascaras flying body press are Black Gordman (above) and Don Carson (right). Mil's flying tactics have made him renown through the world and loved by all.

offered me a contract to become a professional wrestler. I had to choose between becoming a great amateur or an unknown professional. I chose to become a professional wrestler.

As events turned out, it was a while before I could actually make my professional debut. However,



I BROKE INTO SIONAL LING"

Our office is constantly flooded with letters asking how to become a professional grappler. We decided the only ones who really know are the professional wrestlers themselves. Therefore, each month a different wrestler will describe the trials and tribulations endured on the path to wrestling stardom

The Great Kojika is humbled by Mil's backbreaker. Kojika is only one of many such victims.

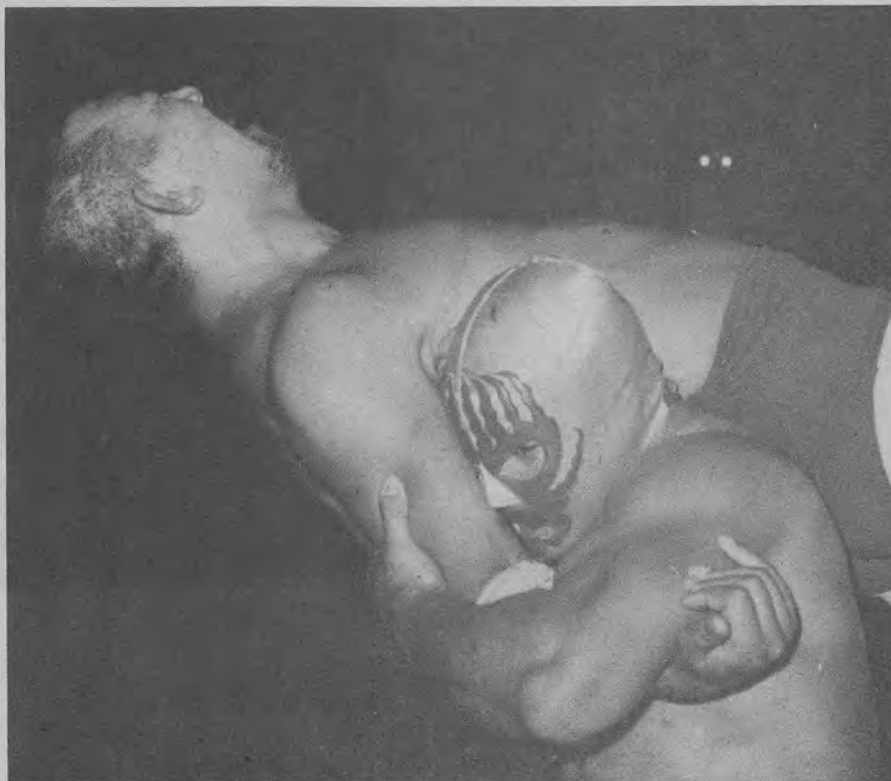
this did not stop my promoter from making my name known throughout Mexico. He would send out press releases telling how Mil Mascaras was wrestling in Europe, or how Mil Mascaras had been sensational in Japan. While he was telling the press this, I was still in the University finishing up work on my degree!

At the time I became a professional (though I had still not made my debut officially), masked men were the trend in Mexican wrestling. Indeed, El Santo was my hero, as well as being the then-most popular grappler in the country. I decided to follow his lead and begin wearing a mask.

I finally did have a chance to make my wrestling debut in Mexico. It took very little time before I became a star.

It was in Los Angeles where I first became known outside my native country. It wasn't long after I started wrestling in Southern California my name became known around the world. It really amazed me how quickly my fame spread.

Of course, my greatest honor in professional wrestling came when I won the championship belt of the



International Wrestling Association (IWA) in an elimination tournament. I was very proud to win the belt.

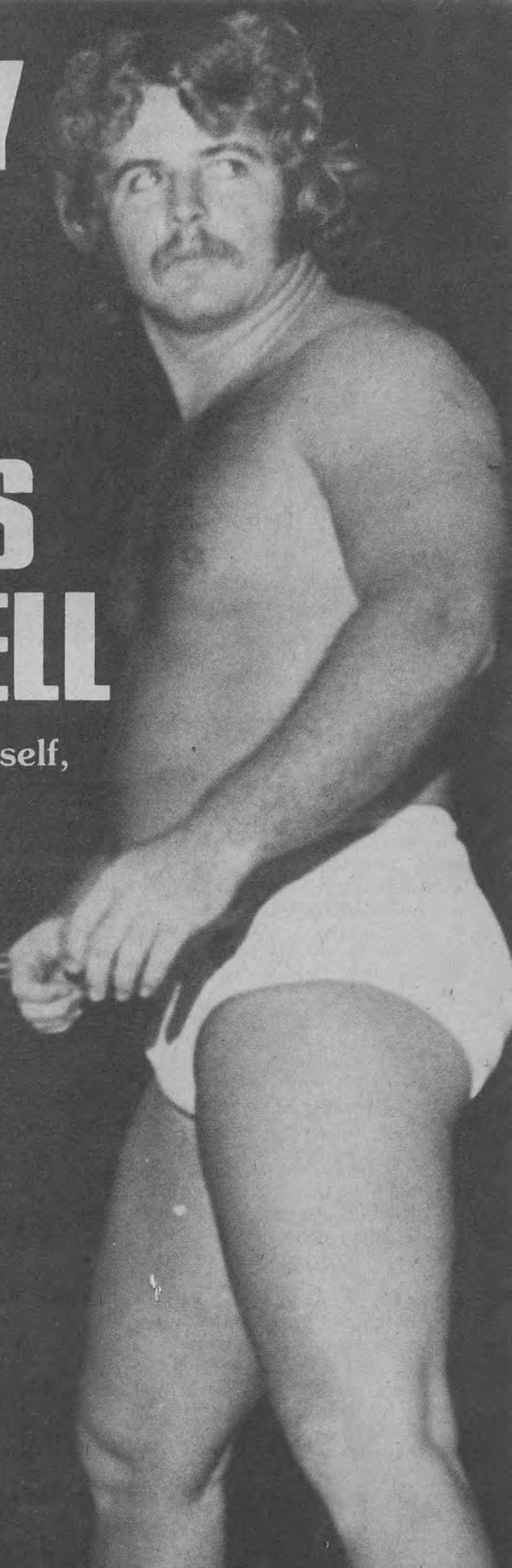
My fame as a professional wrestler had also helped me pursue my second career—acting in the movies. Of course, wrestling is my first love, but I do enjoy making

movies for the Mexican cinema.

Things might have been very different if I had decided to go to the Olympics in 1964. But I am very happy with how events turned out. I don't think I could have ever made a wiser choice than I did in my senior year at the University—the decision to become a professional wrestler!□

THE STORY MIKE GRAHAM BEGGED US NOT TO TELL

For reasons known best to himself,
Mike Graham never wanted
you to read this story.
However, even he admits
every word in it is true!



IT WAS Mike Graham on the telephone.

"Look, I've thought about that interview I gave," he said softly, "and I'd like you not to print it. I've thought about it and I don't know if my family will understand. Perhaps you'd better not print it."

We asked Mike if there was anything unfactual in his interview. If so, we would correct it.

"No, it's the truth, every word of it," he replied. "It's just I've decided against saying it in public."

We then explained to Mike the article was something the public deserved to see. We'd be forced to print his revelations, but would be glad to add anything else he wished.

"I want you to kill the interview!" he shouted, then his voice dropped, "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to lose my temper. I haven't slept well lately. I've been wondering about the effect of the article on my father and uncles. I meant every word I said. But I don't want them to know I said it."

There was nothing in the article which would hurt their feelings, we tried to explain to Mike. It was a natural experience of any man who grew up in the shadow of a famous family. Once he gave us the story, we had moral responsibility to tell it to our readers. Everyone knows this magazine pulls no punches and shows no favoritism.

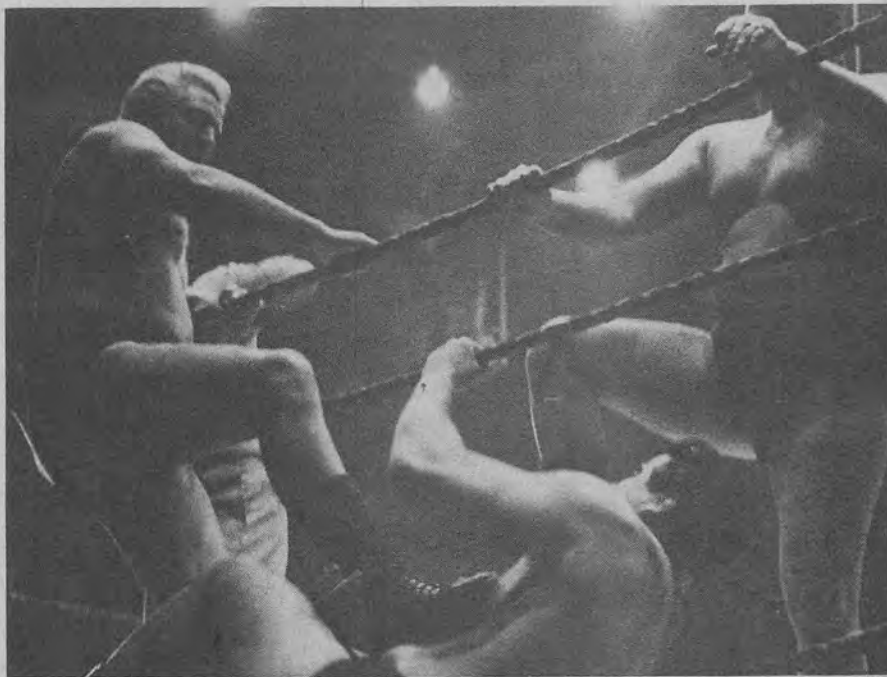
Graham listened in silence, then said, "I can't expect you to kill the story. I gave it to you in good faith. Everything in it is true. I guess I had to say it publicly sometime. I just wish there was something I could do not to see it in print."

Graham hung up the phone. He had tried and failed to hide the fact his career has been stalled because of his family!

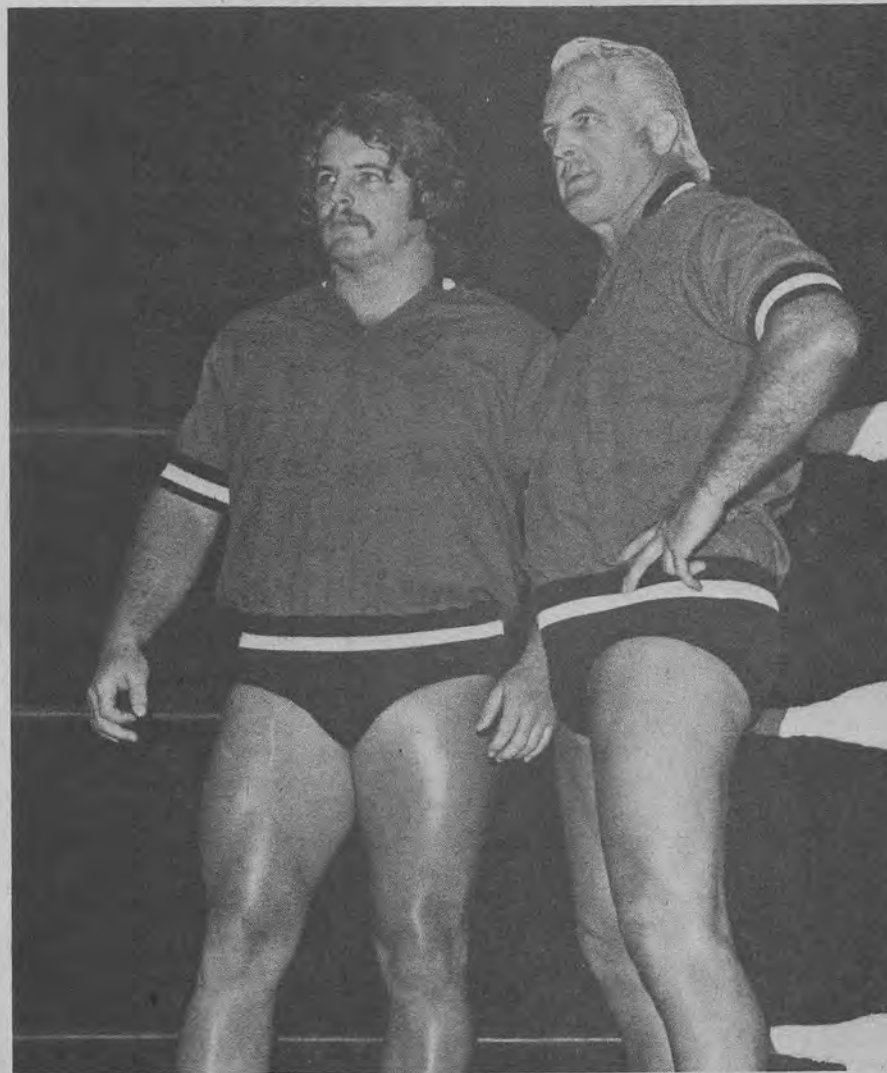
"I owe everything to my father and my uncles," Mike had said, "but there's no doubt I've been held back because my name is Graham. If my name was Smith, I could be world champion today. At least I would have a decent chance to find out."

"People react strangely to a man connected with the Graham family. They remember how vicious my father used to be; they see how vicious some of my uncles are now. They believe there's some time-bomb inside me set to explode someday and change me into a rule-breaker. Even some of my tag team partners have admitted this to me."

(Continued on page 64)



A familiar sight in wrestling's past was the Graham brothers ugly doubleteaming tactics against helpless opponents (above). The memory of those days has plagued the reformed Eddie Graham and his innocent son, Mike. Mike's anger at this prejudice resulted in an interview the younger Graham now wishes he had never given.



NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS



The Hollywood Blonds and manager Sir Oliver Humperdink (above) won a disputed call over Bob Griffin and Sonny King in a recent Louisiana tussle. Standing tall and proud, Jose Lothario (right) stares across the ring at his opponent—NWA champion Terry Funk.

TEXAS RASSLIN'

by Stefan Adamcik and
Bob Burnett

AUSTIN WAS THE host city for Jose Lothario's attempt to unseat Terry Funk from the NWA throne.

As if the bell was a trumpeting charge, Jose exploded from his corner. A series of armdrags spelled trouble for Funk, who responded with a punch to the belly, followed by a surfboard. Jose reversed the hold and forced Funk to submit.

Funk quickly tied up the match; the third fall would decide the title. Jose gained an early advantage and Terry panicked. He leaped over the ropes, pretending to be thrown by Lothario. At first, the referee was taken in by Funk's ruse but then awarded the match, though not the title, to Lothario.

It was a tough night in bayou country for the Hollywood Blonds and their manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink.

The Blonds, Jerry Brown and Buddy Roberts, challenged Sonny King and Bob Griffin. It didn't take the blond rulebreakers long to regret their decision!

Griffin and King worked like a machine, slowly but surely overwhelming their foes. The Blonds used every trick in their vast repertoire of illegal maneuvers, but they still couldn't turn the tide.

When in trouble, the Blonds can always count on Humperdink. Using a high-heeled boot, Sir Oliver knocked Griffin senseless and got an unearned victory for his pair.

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.



GEORGIA REPORT

By Vernon Gray

Atlanta's Omni Arena was the scene of some furious action when Thunderbolt Patterson took on The Sheik. The Arabian wrestler was up to his usual dirty tactics, blinding Patterson with his cape, shoving him against the ropes, choking and biting him.

The Sheik then introduced a foreign object into the action, and used it on his opponent. But Patterson quickly recovered and grabbed



the object. The referee stepped in to stop Thunderbolt, but Patterson accidentally hit the referee. Another referee was called in, but it was too late; Patterson was all over The Sheik. Sheik barely managed to escape back to the safety of his dressing room.

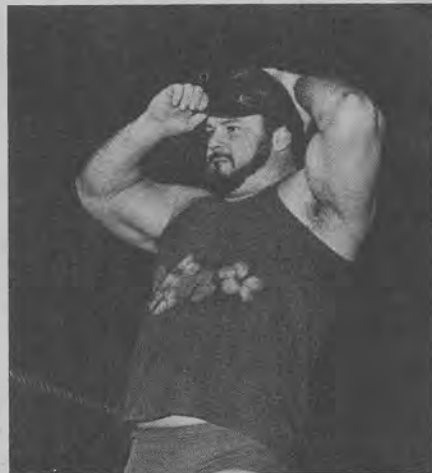
MID-ATLANTIC MAT WARS By Robert Moore

A great card of mid-Atlantic wrestling was presented at the Richmond Coliseum. The main event was a six man tag team match, with Rufus R. Jones, Chief Wahoo McDaniel, and Andre the Giant in one corner, and Ric Flair and Gene and Ole Anderson in the other.

It was a wild, pier-six brawl, with the Andersons and Flair triple-teaming Andre. Somehow, Andre was able to escape and tag Jones, who took on all three opponents at once. Pandemonium broke loose.

The match finally ended when Flair took out a pair of brass knuckles and began to pound Rufus. Jones battled back bravely, forcing Ric to flee the ring, with Andre and McDaniel in hot pursuit.

Mr. Fugi and Harley Race take their Modesto battle back to the dressing room (above). In a southern encounter, T-Bolt Patterson (below) warns The Sheik about illegal maneuvers.



Ivan Putski (above) carries his feud with Big Cat Ernie Ladd to the Garden State of New Jersey.

CALIFORNIA REPORT By Larry Barnhizer

The fans poured into Modesto's Uptown arena when Harley Race went against Mr. Fugi. They were rewarded with a grand exhibition of wrestling excitement.

Race thrilled the fans from the opening moments by seemingly overwhelming Fugi, at one point even reducing him to begging for mercy. However, the wily Japanese rulebreaker managed to capture the first fall. All Fugi's cunning couldn't avert disaster in the second fall when Race assaulted him with a series of dropkicks. Race dominated the beginning of the third fall but fell to a combination Kung-Fu blow and cobra hold.

Mr. Fugi's upset victory made Race swear bloody revenge!

GARDEN STATE GRAPPLING By Walter Berchin

The continuing war between Ernie Ladd and Ivan Putski came to northern New Jersey. It was a match never to be forgotten by those who saw it.

Ladd appeared hesitant at first, always retreating. This made Putski move in recklessly, setting the Polish mat star up for a series of illegal kicks by Ladd. Ivan sank to the canvas in obvious agony.

However, Ivan recovered and sent Ernie sprawling all over the ring and finally out of it. The referee, who had been injured by Ladd earlier in the proceedings, recovered in time to count Ernie out and award the bout to Ivan. □

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WAHOO MUST QUIT WRESTLING

(Continued from Page 27)



Above: Wahoo's head is pounded into the ring apron by the cruel Missouri Mauler. McDaniel's career has been plagued by this kind of ruthless opponents—and those matches have taken their toll!

Below: A bloody, groggy McDaniel struggles valiantly to his feet.



Further, restricted physical activity would be suggested.

"However, the professional wrestler's body has, over the years, built resistance to the punishment. It can continue to function acceptably even in a battered state. Wahoo McDaniel runs no greater risk than most wrestlers.

The letter does go on to say a risk exists, a risk most wrestlers run. At any time a professional wrestler is prone to serious injury, even death. The doctors go on to suggest matches be spaced at least three weeks apart. They especially recommend this for any man who has been wrestling for over five years.

Wahoo had gone to the first group of specialists right after a match. He was in bad shape from the punishment he took. He told the doctors he'd be wrestling in another week, too short a time for the body to heal. The doctors made their report under those circumstances.

Wahoo, however, does not intend to restrict his schedule. Never a man to coddle his body, Wahoo plans to take any match that strikes his fancy. It doesn't matter how much time has elapsed between bouts; Wahoo has always felt the more the merrier. However, his body may no longer be able to indulge his competitive spirit.

Some specialists say Wahoo may die if he continues to grapple. Others say he must cut down his schedule. Wahoo listens only to the call of battle, demanding he meet any and all challengers. Many wrestlers run a similar risk, but none as dangerously as Wahoo.

A man who wrestles against Wahoo McDaniel must realize the risks involved. Death lurks in the shadows of every confrontation. If McDaniel flaunts death at every turn, that's his responsibility. There's no reason for the man who administers the finishing blow to blame himself.

If Wahoo McDaniel dies in action, he will have killed himself. ☐

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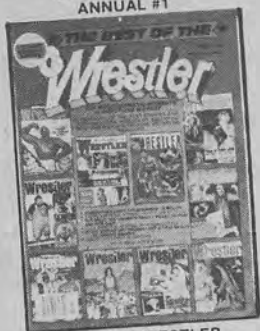
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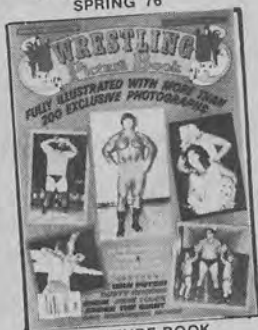
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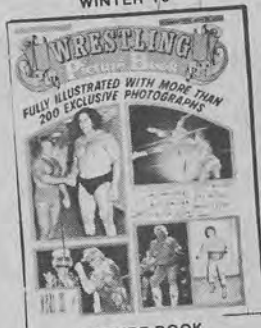
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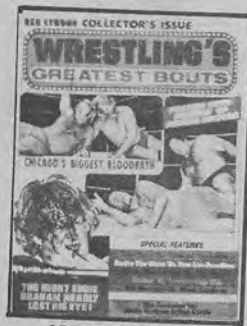
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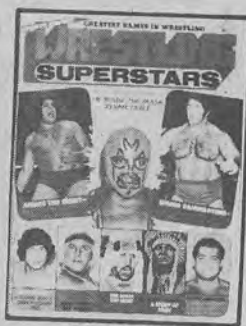
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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)



Against Mickey Doyle, Chavo shows his agility (above) and power (below). It's the skill which he brings to his matches, however, that makes Chavo seem destined to wrestling stardom.



Chavo Guerrero is a talented young grappler. In less than 10 minutes, Chavo had defeated his opponent. Everyone in the arena was on his feet cheering for this young rookie. Even I joined in the standing ovation!

I had an opportunity to talk to this amazing young man after the match. I had to find out more about him. In our interview, Chavo told me

about how he had achieved his meteoric rise to the top of his profession, explaining how some of the wealthiest men in Mexico were backing him. They hoped Chavo would bring a championship title back to his native land.

He became quite upset when the discussion turned to Terry Funk, the man whose title Chavo plans to win. "I have already wrestled Terry Funk," Chavo told me. "The first time we battled—before he won the NWA title—I beat him. Then I wrestled him after he won the title. I won the decision, but not the belt."

"I will keep wrestling Terry Funk until I win his championship. I know I can do it. I know I will be the next NWA champion!"

Of course, I've heard many wrestlers make such claims. Yet I believe Chavo is one of the few men who can back up what he says. There is no question in my mind Guerrero is talented. He certainly has the drive and ambition to be NWA champion. He has proven he can defeat Terry Funk. The next logical step is for Chavo Guerrero to become champion.

Therefore, my advice to all wrestling fans is to keep an eye on this amazing young man from Mexico. He is charming, talented, ambitious, and has what it takes to be a champion. □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 15)



Bruno Sammartino clutches his back during a recent match. This kind of punishment made it inevitable that the WWF champion would suffer a serious injury; Bruno recently suffered a broken neck at the hands of Stan Hansen. Fans hope Bruno won't rush back to battle before his injury has had time to heal totally.

KEEP GOING STRONG

I can't believe the nerve Dory Funk Jr. showed in your story, "Chavo Whips Dory—the Upset that Rocked Wrestling" (INSIDE WRESTLING/May 1976). He should have known better than to tangle with a great wrestler like Chavo Guerrero. Without a doubt, young Chavo is the best grappler to arrive on the wrestling scene in many years.

I hope the Funks have learned their lesson: They can never defeat Chavo Guerrero. Someday soon, Terry will be forced to hand his belt over to the best new wrestler around—Chavo Guerrero.

MARTY MENDALLO
Anaheim, Calif.

battered condition, Sammartino did fall victim to Hansen's dirty tactics. His neck was broken. He may never be as great again.

I hope Bruno takes enough time off to allow the wounds to heal completely. I would hate to see him re-injured the first time he stepped back into the ring. Then we might lose a great wrestler forever.

STEVEN RAY
Bronx, N.Y.

OF COURSE IT FITS

So you finally realize, "The Belt Finally Fits Nick Bockwinkle" (INSIDE WRESTLING/June 1976). Well, it's about time. I've known for years Nick Bockwinkle was a true champion—his keeping the belt so long only proves it!

Remember, Bockwinkle and his partner Ray Stevens held the AWA tag team belt longer than anyone else did. And Nick proved time and time again how great a wrestler he was during those years.

Of course the belt finally fits Bockwinkle. He deserves to wear it, and he will hold it for many years to come.

PEGGY OLESON
St. Paul, Minn. □

BULL'S EYE

In regard to your article, "Has the Punishment Taken Its Toll?" (INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1976), you have shown remarkable foresight. Soon after the article came out, it became obvious the punishment had indeed taken its toll on Bruno Sammartino.

An inferior opponent like Stan Hansen could never have crippled Bruno in the past. However, in his

DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from Page 10)

face, and I said, "How many stitches do you think they'll have to put in you this time, Ernie?"

"That's not by blood!" he shot back. "It's the other guy's. Didn't you see how bad he was bleeding? I'm covered with *his* blood!"

I didn't believe him, and my



suspensions were even more aroused when he refused to let anybody into his dressing room. Later, checking with several doctors, I found out it took 16 stitches to close a gash along Ernie's forehead. And he thought he'd hide it from me!

How's this for a flimsy excuse. Was taking some photos of Nick Bockwinkel during a match. Bockwinkel was taking quite a battering before being disqualified. Can you believe he said the flash from my camera affected his vision, and all he could see were spots! Right now I'm not exactly his favorite reporter.

Dick Murdoch told me, "Although I'm very close with the Funks, I wouldn't turn down the opportunity to face Terry for the NWA title if the opportunity ever presents itself."

Ox Baker wants me to tell all who boo him what he thinks of them.

"I think they're all cretins," said Baker. "They've got to be cretins not to appreciate greatness. I go together with wrestling the way peaches go with cream, spaghetti goes with meatballs."

Took a copy of our magazine along to give to Mad Dog Vachon. It's the last time I'll do something like that—he chewed it up!

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CHIEF STRONGBOW

(Continued from Page 35)



Strongbow struggles valiantly to wrest the belt from Stan Stasiak (above) by bodyblocking the champion. For all his effort, Jay did not take the belt because Stasiak got himself disqualified. Many people felt Strongbow was going to win the title that night.

Sammartino. Strongbow's bout seemed unimportant by comparison. Anyway, we could neither get photos nor a reliable account of the battle.

Siegenthaler's visit changed all that. In his battered briefcase were photos of the Stasiak-Strongbow title match along with exhaustive notes detailing the battle.

"As you've probably guessed," the photographer said after we examined the photos, "I lied to you about not being at the match. I got the whole thing on film. However, Stasiak got to me right after the match with an offer I couldn't refuse. He gave me more money than I've ever seen. All he wanted were the negatives of the match. I was to tell people I wasn't there. HE didn't want anyone to know about it. You see, he ran back to the dressing room when things got too tough for him. He was counted out, but he kept the belt that night.

"He didn't think it would be a good idea for the world to know he was a coward. It wasn't hard for him to get a news blackout of the match. I was the only reporter-photographer there on that Saturday night in New

England.

"Well, I sold Stasiak the negatives. What he didn't know was that I had made prints before I gave him the negatives. So, these are the only photos of the match in existence. I made them for an emergency. This is an emergency. If I don't get some money today, I'll have to hock my cameras."

We bought the photos. They were everything Siegenthaler promised—except there was no photo of Stasiak running away from Strongbow. Tom claims he was knocked down by the fleeing Stasiak and didn't get a chance to snap a photo. Chances are when Siegenthaler needs more money, we'll see that photo, also.

However, history demands an account of the one chance Chief Jay Strongbow had for the WWWF title. The day after the match, we bought an account of it from a veteran fan. What follows is a combination of that account and Siegenthaler's notes, containing only what is in common between the two reports.

As soon as the bell rang to start the contest, Strongbow took command. For years, he had wanted

the title more than anything; this was his chance. Stasiak was overwhelmed by his attack.

To save himself, Stasiak tried every dirty trick in the book. However, the most he could do was slow down Jay's attack. Strongbow relentlessly continued to approach victory. Stasiak was scared, and with good reason.

Time and time again, Strongbow seemed close to getting Stasiak in the sleeper. Stan barely escaped and each time he came closer to defeat. The champion's eyes filled with fear as Strongbow seemed to get stronger as the title appeared to be his for the taking. Stasiak kicked and punched his way free. Still Strongbow kept coming.



After being disqualified, Stan holds the WWF title belt he retained that evening (above).

Finally, Stasiak was captured in the sleeper. He almost fell unconscious, but desperation freed him. Groggily, having used all his strength to make his escape, Stasiak ran from the ring. He couldn't stand defeat nor could he beat Strongbow.

Except for Stasiak's cowardice, Chief Jay Strongbow would have become WWF heavyweight champion. And now, three years later, the whole world knows the story of Strongbow's first—and only—title shot. ☐

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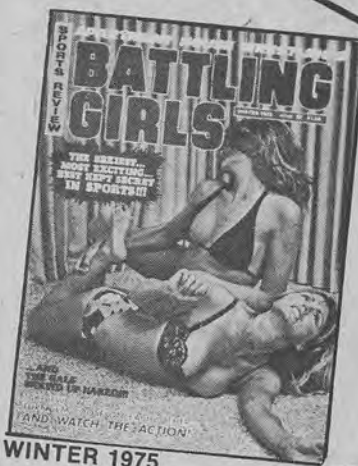
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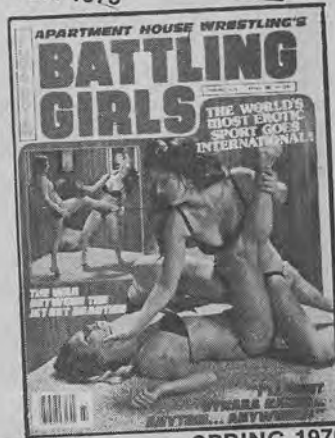
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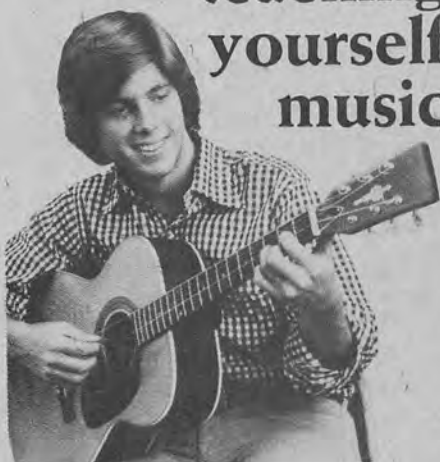
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PUTSKI WILL NEVER DEFEAT GRAHAM

(Continued from Page 39)



Ivan has Superstar in pain for a short time (above), but soon Billy reverses this and has the Polish mat star in pain (below) due to using an illegal tactic!



managers. They need Ivan's success.

But as sure as death and taxes, Graham will make Putski lose his temper and the match. And that little bit of happiness the fans were counting on is deprived them. Once again, they've been turned down for a loan. Once again, they're the butt of stupid jokes. And once again, nice guys finish last.

It happened once again in a Stamford, Connecticut, high school. Putski vs. Graham was the main event on a great wrestling card. It was a fine night, a special night. Putski had hopes.

"I do it tonight," the Polish grappler told me in his broken English. He knows more English than I do Polish. "The fans want to see Graham beaten. Listen to them. They need me. They want me. I am hero to them. People need heroes. They need me. I need them to need me."

His words may have been brief, but the look on his face told volumes. I've seen that look before. It's the look most men have when they're willing to die for something greater than themselves. Some of them win medals; some of them earn early graves.

Putski walked out to cheers that must have shown up on seismographs. If moral support was what the Polish mat star needed, the fans were going to give it to him. Putski's eyes reflected

his determination; those two glowing orbs told more than words in any language could.

Graham entered, strutting the walk of those blessed from birth. It's a spoiled stride, speaking of a mean spirit. There's no compassion beneath those astonishing muscles.

The bell rang and Putski attacked. It was an intelligent assault, borne of experience and cunning. Graham had to go on the defensive. There was no subtlety in Billy's defense—it was an awkward, desperate try for survival. The fans were on their feet. This could be the night Ivan Putski emerged victorious.

However, it was not to be. Once again, Graham showed ugly cunning can defeat the best intentions. A series of illegal moves, expertly hidden from the referee's gaze, drove Ivan wild. He



Above: Driven wild by Graham's tactics, Ivan goes berserk and soon finds himself disqualified.

began to fight fire with fire. And he lost any chance to win the match.

No one can compare with Graham when it comes to cheating. The referee saw Putski, an inexperienced cheater, without noticing Graham's violations. The man did his duty to the best of his ability; he disqualified Putski. The Polish mat star had been beaten once again by Graham's evil.

Ivan couldn't see the look of disappointment on the faces of his fans. Putski's eyes were filled with tears. Once again, he had not beaten Billy Graham.

You're Ivan Putski. You've failed one more time. But you'll die before you quit trying to succeed. ☐

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BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 18)



Battles between Joyce Grable and Donna Christenello (above) or Vicki Williams' wars with Belle Starr (below) have not received the full credit for being excellent competition.



constant influx of new faces.

Women's new sense of independence is the greatest advantage female grappling has ever known. The sport can flourish as it never has before. Even the women grapplers themselves sense this.

"I was talking with Vicki Williams," Joyce Grable stated recently, "and we both agree our sport has been missing the biggest chance it's ever going to get. Personally, I think separate cards of women wrestling is a great idea. In fact, Vicki has been wondering if it was possible for a long time.

"I don't agree with the abolition of a champion. It's a prize no woman would willingly give up. I want to be champion. I think a title attracts women to the sport. Everybody wants to try to be the best. I believe there should be one champion. So does every other girl I know.

"Vicki and I agreed we'd be more than willing to donate 10 percent of our salaries to the development of women's amateur wrestling. It's a step that's long been overdue. Sue Green has been talking about such a thing since I've known her."

Whatever the answers, this is a critical period of questioning for women's wrestling. It's a subject which the best brains in the sport must tackle.

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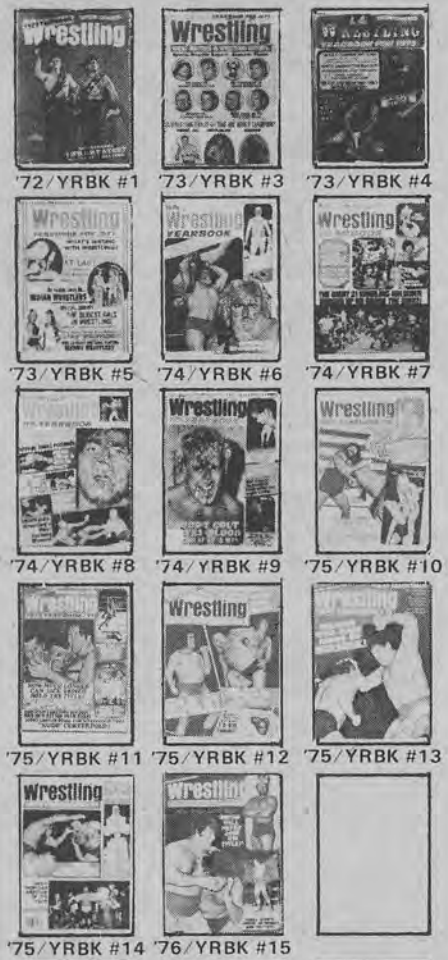
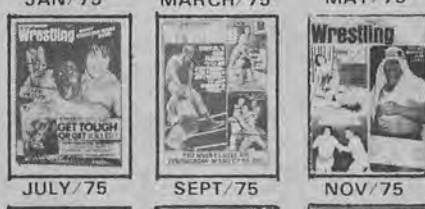
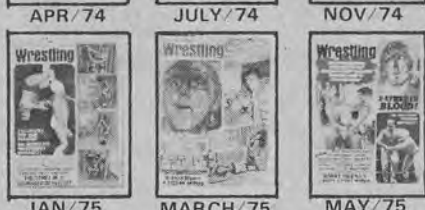
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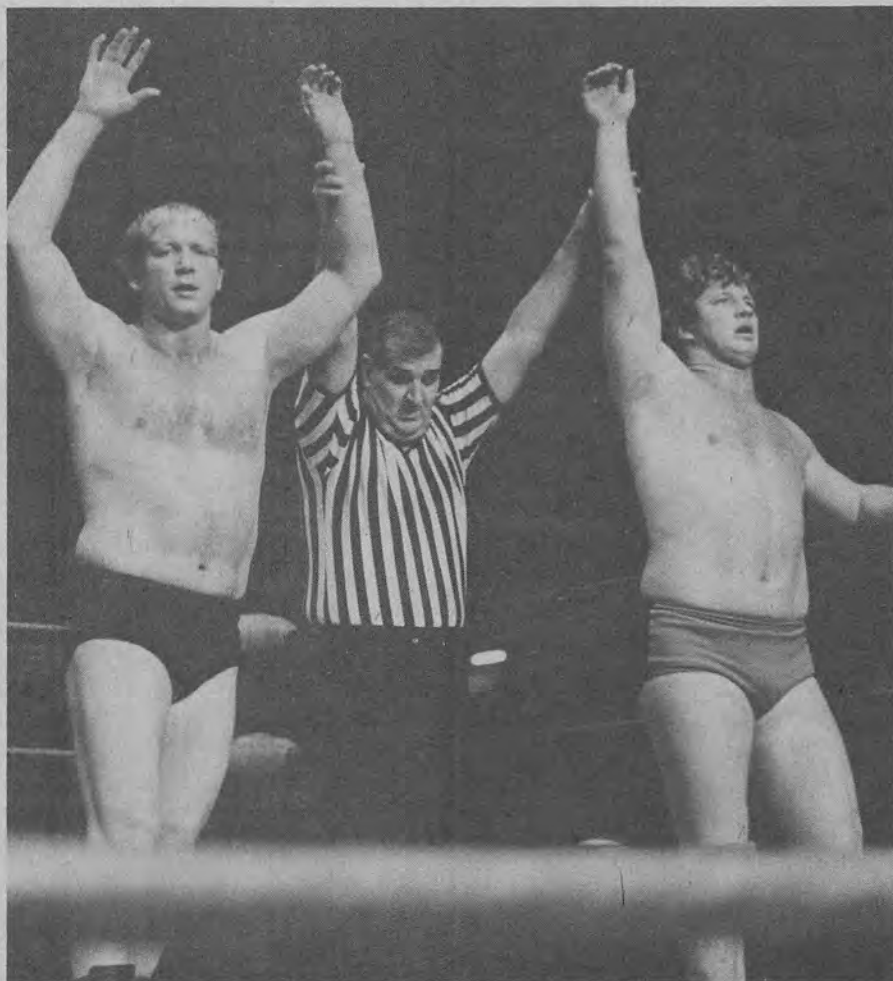
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TERRY FUNK

(Continued from Page 41)



As a team, Terry and Dory Jr. often wrestled brilliantly together. Teams like Pak Song and Baba the Giant (above) posed little or no trouble for the brothers. Indeed, their hands were usually raised in victory at the end of especially hard, vicious matches (below).



has its own set of circumstances which makes it different from any other kind of battle. The champion

has all the advantages; the challenger none. There are numerous technicalities which a champion



Terry and Dory Jr. are laughing together at a wrestling arena (above). But will they smile if they wrestle each other?

can employ to get out of tough situations. Not only must the challenger pin the champion, he must make sure the champion doesn't get disqualified or make it through the ropes and be counted out. He must contain the match within the ropes and make sure no disqualification can occur. Besides that, he's got to win!

With a champion's advantages, Terry should be able to keep his title. Dory's big hope is his brother's temper. Terry's anger could destroy his reason. Instead of using a champion's advantages, he might want to slug it out with his brother. Terry might lose rather than protect his title by less than a decisive victory.

Everyone agrees Dory needs the title more than Terry. He'd be the less likely to release his brother agonized in a spinning toe-hold. It would hurt Dory but not enough to spare his brother.

Terry might release his brother and then be harmlessly disqualified. Once his anger subsided, he'd have no taste for this battle. However, he wouldn't relinquish the championship, either.

If all things were equal, one could predict Terry Funk would retain his title, though probably not decisively defeat his brother. When two brothers battle, however, all intelligent bets are off.

The only way anyone will find out the answer will be when the two men actually wrestle. It'll be a match no one wants to see yet no one can prevent. May the better man win!

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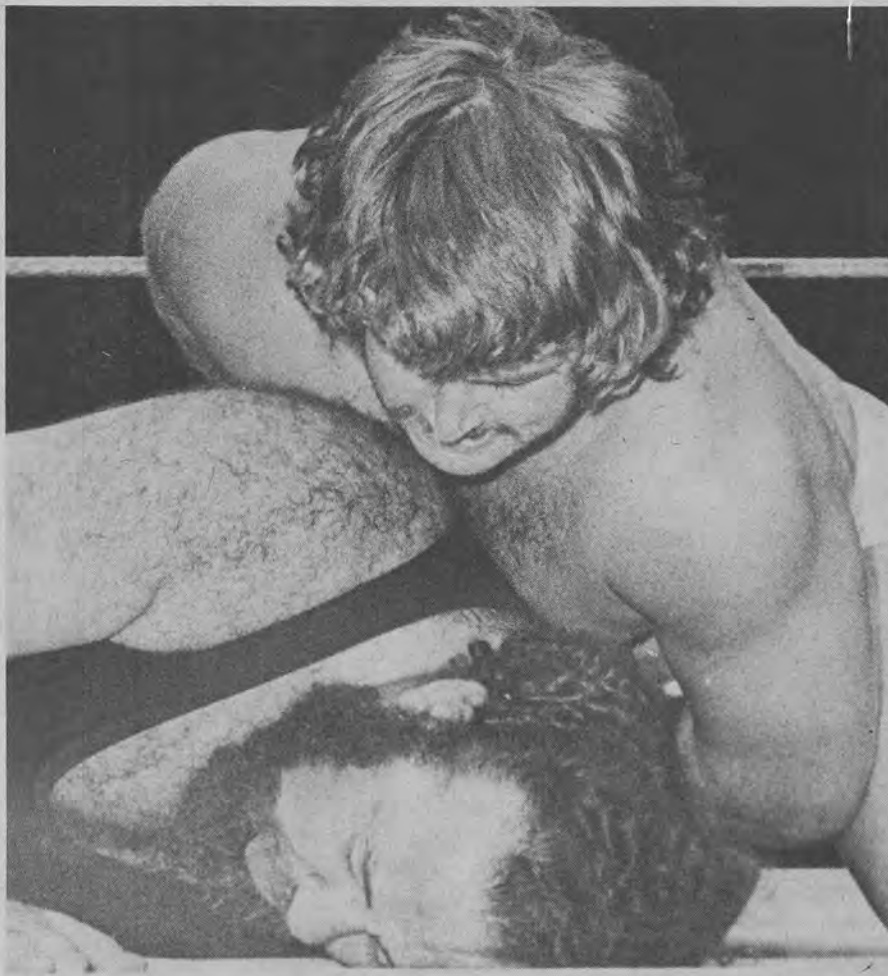
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MIKE GRAHAM

(Continued from Page 47)



Above: Mike is tough but scrupulously honest as he battles with Juan Caruso. Graham knows he can't afford to resort to illegal tactics. Below: Though his belly is the target of illegal blows, Mike steadfastly continues his legal headlock on Rock Hunter.



"Promoters are afraid of seeing a Graham as champion. They are scared of a reign of terror being visited upon the association. So they make it difficult for me to get a title shot. They do their best to iso-

late the Grahams in certain areas. And they convince the champions wrestling me is not in the sport's best interests.

"Look, I beat Terry Funk a week before he won the NWA title. Don't you think that would make me one of the top contenders for the title? Yet, I have to struggle like a madman to get a title shot. Why? The promoters don't want to risk having a Graham become champion.

"My father changed his tactics when he saw I wanted to be a professional wrestler. He felt a responsibility toward me. A Graham dynasty would be one the sport could point to with pride. He taught me to be totally honest. Whenever I tried to use a slightly illegal tactic as a short-cut, he came down on me hard. He believes I have responsibility to future generations of

Grahams. It's my lot to set an example for those who will follow after me."

At this point, Mike fell silent for a moment. He was obviously thinking about those who would follow in his footsteps, those who wouldn't have to struggle with the infamous past of the Grahams. His example would wipe out a generation of outrage. The sins of the fathers would be wiped out by this son.

Mike's attention returned to the present. There would be battles to be fought now.



Mike expertly captures Dick Slater in a surfboard, one of many of Mike's great maneuvers.

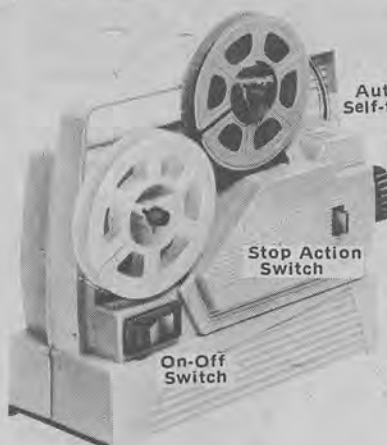
"I want the world to know why I get comparatively few chances at the major titles. I'll meet any of the three champions anywhere they want. They know that; I've sent them enough letters telling them so. All three have written back to say they've asked the promoters for a match. I haven't heard anything from the promoters.

"So I'm locked out in the cold. The regional titles I earned were in areas where I had proved myself for years. My father and I have gone out of our way to be scientific in tag team matches. Still, promoters refuse to believe we're not going to become animals."

After he gave this interview, Mike Graham wanted it never to be printed. We feel his family, and the wrestling community, can only feel pride and gratitude that such a man graces our sport. □

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Your car runs because gasoline is fed into the cylinders where a spark causes it to fire. This action causes the gasoline to explode — this explosion pushes down the pistons. Now, here is the important thing to you. The larger this spark is, the more powerful the explosion. The more powerful the explosion, the more power you get from a given amount of gasoline.

Poor explosion means wasted gas, loss of power, poor getaway, bad starting, a sluggish car. A good explosion means more miles per gallon, more horsepower, better pickup, quick starting, an exciting car to drive.

WHAT CONTROLS YOUR ENGINE EFFICIENCY?

Your spark plugs control the efficiency of that explosion. And if they are borderline plugs, not only do they give a small spark to begin with, but they get worse every mile you drive. That you can see for yourself! Put a new set of spark plugs in your car and then look at them at 100 miles — at 1,000 miles — at 5,000 miles. Every time you look you will see more filth and carbon... more of the electrode burning and eroding away.

Why, some of the new high compression engines can burn up a set of spark plugs in a couple of thousand miles of driving. Now, you tell me how a weak, inefficient spark from a filthy, burned-out plug can possibly give you the kind of flashing, economical performance you want from your car!



NEW PLUG OLD PLUG

Spark plug experts admit that plugs only 200 hours old can waste up to one quart of gas out of every gallon you buy... that's 25¢ for every \$1.00 you spend. And—after only 10,000 miles, they're ready for the garbage!

STOP USING YOUR OLD BORDER-LINE SPARK PLUGS NOW!

Now, read very carefully what I'm going to suggest. I am going to give you the idea to stop using 10,000-mile spark plugs in your car! That's right... get rid of them forever! But you may ask: "If I get rid of my plugs, what will make my engine run?"

Well, please remember that if you were told a couple of years ago that your car could run without a carburetor, you simply wouldn't have believed it — yet today you can have gas injection and get more mileage, efficiency and power from less gas — and in a few years gas injection will have

replaced carburetors on most cars. In the same way, all you have to do is to replace your old, borderline, inefficient spark plugs with a modern fuel injection system, and you can do it yourself in 15 minutes if you've never handled a tool in your whole life!

MECHANICS AND ENGINEERS READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

Now, the new fire injection I am talking about is so inexpensive that it can pay for itself in gasoline savings alone. For the moment, forget about the extra pep, power and performance that can be in store for you. Forget about the savings in spark plug servicing and replacement, the savings in wear and tear on pistons and cylinders. Just remember that one plug mis-firing in a V-8 engine can cut mileage by as much as 12%. Just remember that this fire injection system can pay for itself in gas savings.

Let me tell you how:

A spark plug jumps a spark of electricity across an air gap; this is very wasteful, and limits the size of the spark.

A fire injector fires on the surface of a semi-conductive material which delivers a heavy, powerful flame that will not blow out at pressures far greater than those created by high-compression engines!

On borderline spark plugs, the air gap is always getting larger — wasting power and gasoline. Your plugs are constantly accumulating filth and carbon because of inefficient ignition.

A fire injector has no air gap to erode away. It will actually outlast your automobile, delivering maximum efficiency without servicing or replacement. There is no wasted gasoline, no loss of power to which you are entitled.

Ordinary spark plugs have to be replaced regularly — or for extra life, you must remove them — clean them — re-gap and then re-install them.

A fire injector is guaranteed for the life of your car — no cleaning, servicing, replacing.

POSITIVE, SCIENTIFIC PROOF!

When you get your set of Fire Injectors, here is all you do. If you have automatic transmission — make a note of how fast your car crawls forward when it is in the drive position with the motor idling. If you have a sports car, a racing car or a boat — make a note of the tachometer RPMs when idling.

If you have a regular transmission, put your car in low gear on a level road and notice its speed with the motor idling. Next, take any inexpensive spark plug wrench and remove your spark plugs. You'll never need them again! Just screw your fire injectors into the spark plug openings.

✓ CHECK THESE DIFFERENCES!

SPARK PLUG

FIRE INJECTOR



- Fires across air gap
- Wire electrode burns away
- Carbon ruins firing tip
- Needs cleaning & setting
- Needs periodic replacing
- Spark blows out under pressure



- NO air gap to erode away
- NO wire electrode
- NO tip deterioration
- NO cleaning or setting
- NO replacing
- NO blowing out even at highest compression

If you have automatic transmission, now put your car in drive and let your engine idle. If your car stood still with spark plugs, it will now move forward at from 4 to 6 miles per hour; that means the amount of gas that just kept your engine turning over will now carry you further — faster — cheaper!

If you have a racing car, sports car or boat, your RPMs will increase up to 200 more at idling, up to 300 more at high speed.

If you have regular transmission, in low gear and with your motor idling, your

car will move forward 4 to 6 miles per hour faster. In other words, no matter what you drive, here is absolute proof that you can go further — go faster — go cheaper when you have proven fire injectors in your car!

ORDER YOUR FIRE INJECTORS NOW!

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